California GARDEN

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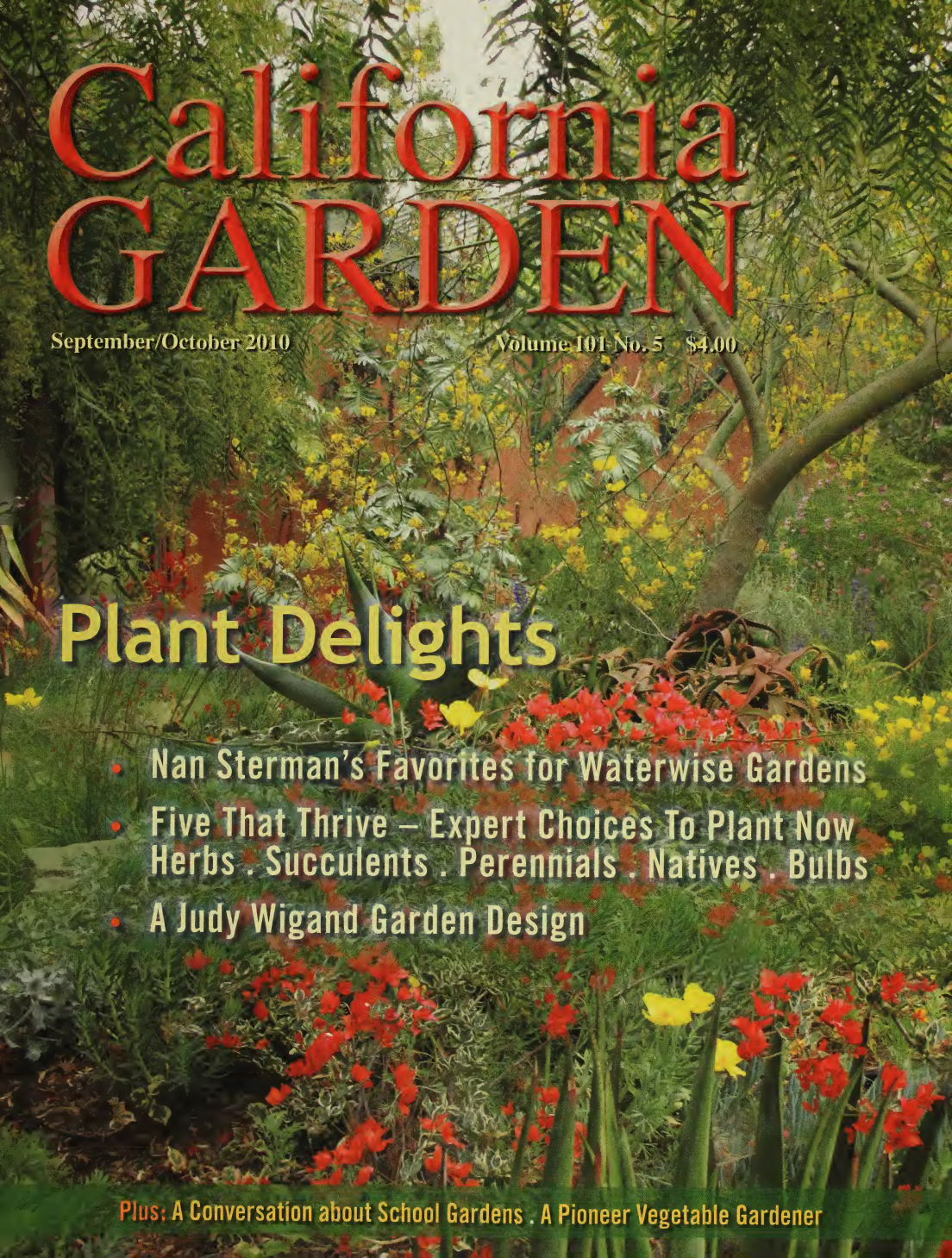

Plant Delights

- Nan Sterman's Favorites for Waterwise Gardens
- Five That Thrive – Expert Choices To Plant Now
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- A Judy Wigand Garden Design

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October 16-17

Pre-Sale for Larabee & Benefactor Society Members: Oct. 16 · 8 - 9 AM
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San Diego BOTANIC GARDEN

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California GARDEN

The Magazine for Hands-On Gardeners and Floral Designers

September/October 2010, Volume 101, Number 5

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Nan Sterman's Olivenhain garden is filled with her favorite waterwise plants picked from a Mediterranean-plant palette. See Page 12 for a detailed list. Photo by Nan Sterman.

We welcome articles, photographs, drawings and ideas. Deadlines are the 10th of January, March, May, July, September and November. We do not pay for articles or artwork. We cannot guarantee the safe return of materials. *California Garden* reserves the right to edit any and all submitted material. We ask that submissions be email attachments in Microsoft Word documents, or sent to us on a CD. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of *California Garden*. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

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President's Letter

It is a joy to be invited to serve as President of San Diego Floral.

I am very aware of the fine history this organization brings to the year 2010, and of the very productive year ahead. Participation in events like the celebration of Kate Session's life in November, December Nights, Family Science Day, May Day at the Marston House and May's Historic Garden tour speak to what San Diego Floral is all about.

I hope that if you are reading this letter that you will make it a priority to be a part of the passion San Diego Floral members have in sharing the joys of nature, gardening, plants and flowers, and all things that bring us closer to becoming a "city of gardens" dreamed of by our 1907 founders, Kate Sessions and A.D. Robinson. In a time when our daily lives are often a frenzy of technology, San Diego Floral offers an opportunity to put perspective back in the lives of our citizens and to offer a healthy focus that can change our daily lives, as well as those of our fellow citizens.

As for you, the reader, spend an afternoon with the magazine or in Floral's library and you will find many ways to grow in your understanding of gardening in San Diego, as well as to increase your network of pleasurable resources.

I hope to see you as a busy volunteer, as well as a relaxed participant, in events that are about enhancing the quality of life for all of us. Do join us at our members meeting in September and be a part of this refreshing group of San Diego Floral members and friends.

Along the way, do remember to "Smell the Flowers."

Sandra Dysart

Sandra M. Dysart

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California GARDEN

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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

DECORATIVE DESIGN CLASSES WITH THE HOLIDAYS IN MIND

SEPTEMBER 16 AND 23, 9:30 A.M. TO NOON

WREATHS AND SWAGS AS LASTING KEEPSAKES

Learn how to create wreaths and swags that will decorate your home during special occasions and become lasting keepsakes of special occasions. Instructors are San Diego Floral Association board members Kay Harry and Barbara P. Clark. A list of materials participants should bring to the first class will be provided at the time of registration.

Cost: $25 ($20 for SDFA members) for the two sessions

Registration deadline is Sept. 10. To register, call Kay at 619-222-5207 or Barbara at 858-694-0438.

All classes are held in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Coffee and sweets will be provided; bring your own lunch and clippers.

Classes are limited to 10 persons and must be prepaid.

Call Lucy Kramer for more information about San Diego Floral Association workshops at 619-295-8181.

SEPTEMBER 29 MEETING

Aenne Carver on "A New Waterwise Look"

The San Diego Floral Association is proud to announce that **Aenne K. Carver**, a long-time friend and contributor to *California Garden* magazine, will speak on "A New Water-wise Look" at the association's fall meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 29, at 2 p.m. in Room 101 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Members and friends are invited to attend.

Carver, "The Thrifty Gardener," will present old-fashioned flowers and plants that are lush but also drought-tolerant. These vintage plants offer charm but more importantly they thrive despite water restrictions. Discover from yesteryear the vines, annuals, biennials, bulbs, and perennials that can give you the coveted cottage garden look without a big water bill. Carver will share money-saving ideas for propagating these old-fashioned favorites for spectacular water-wise gardens. As always, Carver will weave in her signature elements of plant lore, cooking, floral design, and crafts.

Aenne K. Carver is a UCCE Master Gardener, and has appeared as a garden expert on TV and radio. She also is an author, lecturer, floral designer and craft instructor. Aenne currently is gardening in Lakeside. Visit her web site at www.thethriftgardener.com.

Check Out Our New Look
www.sdfloral.org

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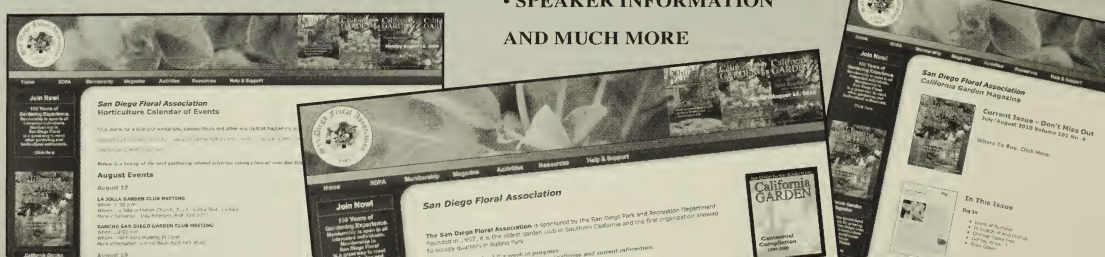


Yes, Phalaenopsis Will Bloom Again

Here's how to coax another flower spike from these popular orchids

By Bruce Berg

Photos: Bruce Berg

Orchids make such nice gifts. They bring an air of luxury and opulence to our homes or offices. But what do you do with them once they are done blooming?

One of the typical plants seen in stores is the Phalaenopsis or "moth orchid." These orchids have round petals that cascade beautifully on long inflorescences (or stalks or spikes). These plants can easily bloom for two or three months inside the house where they get bright indirect light and water when they get thirsty. They are one of the easiest orchids to care for without greenhouses or other special requirements. They can live happily next to your African violets.

If you have one of these plants that has lost its blooms, you have a choice to make. Today, prices on these orchids are much less than they were 10 years ago; many are priced about the same as a cut-flower arrangement. You can enjoy the flowers and when the plant has finished blooming, throw the plant away.

Or you may want to try the challenge of getting it bloom again.

My preference is to cut the spike off a new plant after the plant has lost the blooms and then repot the plant. Then I put it where it can happily grow another year to bloom again. Keep in mind that night temperatures must drop to 50 degrees for the plant to initiate new spikes.

Many of the plants sold in stores have their roots packed in moss and the pots may or may not have drainage holes. It is important to make sure that the roots can dry out after watering. Too much water will cause the roots to rot. For this reason, when I bring a new orchid home, I examine the potting medium and will only water when the medium begins to dry out – usually once or twice a week.

When a Phalaenopsis is done blooming and ready for repotting, I pull the plant out of the pot and pick out the old moss or bark chips. I also cut off any dead roots – ones that are not light colored with green tips. Orchid potting mix can be purchased from vendors at orchid shows, local nurseries or outdoor supply stores. For orchids with fat roots like the Phalaenopsis, use a coarse mix. Plants with fine roots can use a finer mix. Use a pot with lots of drainage holes to help let the roots dry out between watering.

If the roots cannot fit back in the pot the plant came in, use a pot one size larger so that there is about one inch between the roots and the edge of the pot. Orchids like to have their roots crowded. A pot that is too large will hold too much moisture. While holding the plant in one hand, fill in the bark mixture around the roots and gently tap the pot on the table to help settle in the new mix. It is best if the mix is first moistened overnight in a ziplock bag.

Some Phalaenopsis orchid owners like to see their favorite plants rebloom again on the old spikes. To get your plant to do this, cut the spike above one of the joints, typically the second joint, above where the spike is connected to the plant. Before cutting off the spike though, examine the tip of the spike. If you can see tiny buds forming, the plant just may be resting before starting to bloom again on its own.

The plant may bloom again by sending out a side spike above the cut spike. This secondary spike may not have as many new blooms or the blooms may not be as large, but it is one way to enjoy the blooms again. It may take a couple months for the new spike to grow and bloom.

One reason why some orchid growers do not do this is that it takes a lot of the plant's growth reserves to grow and bloom another spike and the plant may not grow as vigorously the next season. However, if the plant looks healthy, I like the challenge of seeing if I can extend the time I enjoy those beautiful blooms by trying this trick.

More information on how to care for these plants and others can be found on many websites dedicated to the culture of orchids. The San Diego County Orchid Society has cultural information on its website, www.sdorchids.com. In addition, information on how to repot orchids can also be found at the American Orchid Society website, www.aos.org; search for repotting orchids.

The San Diego Botanic Garden (previously known as Quail Botanical Gardens) will host the International Orchid Fair, their 16th annual orchid show and plant sale, Oct. 1-3. Discount entry coupons can be obtained at www.sdbgarden.org.

On the weekend of Oct. 23 and 24, the San Diego County Orchid Society will host an Orchid Show and Plant Sale in Room 101 of the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. The show is open from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Sunday. Vendors and members will be there to answer your questions on how to care for these attractive plants and help you to pick out a plant to take home.

– Bruce Berg is a member of the San Diego County Orchid Society. He and his wife Carol grow many varieties of orchids outside their Santee home.

Trees of Balboa Park:
Mexican Palo Verde

This fast growing tree, also known as Jerusalem thorn, will reach 20-30 feet in height and almost as wide. The tree does not have dense foliage, it is open and airy. The bark is yellow-green and many branches have thorns.

The twice-compound leaves are 6-9 inches long with tiny leaflets. The leaves will drop in the winter for several months and also during periods of drought. The yellow flowers are fragrant and ½ inch in diameter. One or more petals may have red markings. The flowers form 3-6 inch long clusters.

The long blooming season starts as soon as the temperature warms up and continues into late fall. The peak bloom is summer, but intermittent blooming occurs throughout the year. Seed pods form after flowering. The brown bean-type pods are 3-6 inches long and contain hard seeds.

Several mature trees are growing in the Desert Garden. Younger trees are growing at the entrance of the Balboa Park Club.

Excerpted from Trees and Gardens of Balboa Park *(2001; $25) and reprinted with permission from Kathy Pulplava, Paul Sirois, the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department and Tecolote Publications.*

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Mexican Palo Verde at the San Diego Botanic Garden, in the New World Desert Garden.

Favorite Tool: Scissor Shears

Photo: Jim Zemcik

Like many people, I must own 15 pairs of garden shears of one type or another and have spent a lot of money on "new and improved" shears over the years. All have one or more of the following traits: They are expensive and cumbersome; they cause blisters; the little spring "gizzies" that make them open are useless over time; and they are limited for smaller trimming and pruning.

Enter my favorite garden tool - Fiskars scissor-type garden shears.

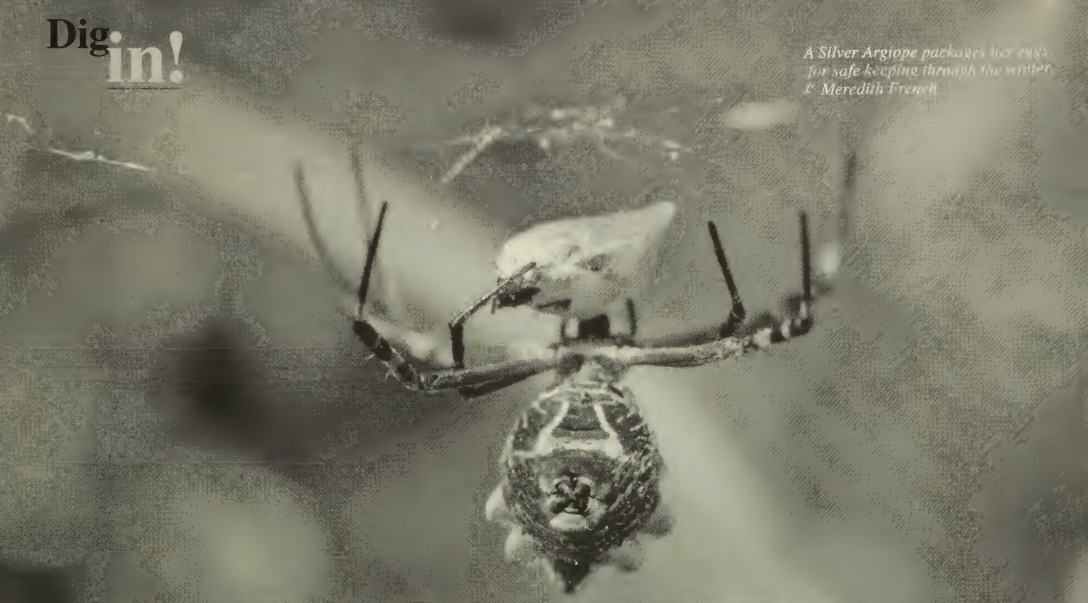
This tool fits the hand like a pair of scissors, therefore no blisters or sore spots. The elongated blades allow you to get deep into most plants and provide neat, quick and sure snipping action. There are no springs or little pieces to come loose and lose. They work just like a pair of scissors.

The utility of these shears goes well beyond simple pruning. The serrated blades stay sharp and allow quick cuts with minimum pressure. You can cut tin cans with ease and not dull the blades. The notching near the pivot screw allows you to position and cut easily such things as bamboo stakes, thick stems or wire. I even dig with mine. Digging out weeds or digging a shallow hole for transplanting smaller plants is a breeze.

Last, but not least, they are easy to take apart, clean and put back together.

There are two sizes: the longer "Herb & Veggie" and, a shorter one. I use the shorter ones since I am generally working deep inside smaller stemmed plants. Either one is a $10 Home Depot item. The pair shown in the picture is more than three years old. Never been cleaned. Never been sharpened. And, you wouldn't believe how many plants I snip away at every weekend.

Did I mention that the orange handles make them easy to find? – *Jim Zemcik*



A Silver Argiope packages her prey for safe keeping through the winter. © Meredith French

The Spiders of Fall

These beneficials weave their webs in the autumn garden

Story and Photos By Meredith French

Starting in mid- to late summer, orb and funnel spiders begin to spin their intricate webs in the flyways or crawl spaces of San Diego gardens. Their annual activity will continue until the weather gets too cool for them. Funnel spiders are very elusive and not very showy, while orb spiders are marvels of color and design. But neither is a pest as some pest control companies would like you to believe. In fact, both help control insects that are pests in the garden.

The orb spiders found in San Diego County are from the family *Araneidae*. There are 200 species north of Mexico alone. These eye-catching spiders are identified as much by the design of their webs as by their coloring and body shape.

Locally you will see the Golden Orb Weaver (also known as the Common Garden Spider or Black and Yellow Argiope), the Banded Orb Weaver, the Silver Argiope (or Writing Spider) and the Common Orb Weaver. All have poor eyesight and rely on vibrations in their webs to locate prey. Not only are they all able to catch insects twice their size but they also have a clever survival behavior to ward off their own predators. They vibrate their webs, to make them a blur, to confuse a bird or parasitic wasp.

Of these four locally common orbs, the colorful Silver Argiope is the most visually distinctive with its pie crust-like crimpings or flanges on its abdomen and the *stabilmentum* or ladders to four of the radii or supports of its concentric circled web. (The Golden Orb also produces these unusual track marks in a zigzag pattern of extra heavy silk.) The radii selected are the ones which will extend out from the ends of four of the spider's coupled legs as it waits at the center. The over all appearance when the spider is home is of one giant X.

The purpose of the *stabilmentum* is not fully understood. Some scientists believe they further camouflage the patterned spider. It has been found that such spiders with these web constructions catch 34 percent fewer insects than those that do not have the additional zigzag pattern. Other scientists therefore speculate that the embellishment is there to alert birds and other animals to avoid the web and thus reduce the need to rebuild.

Another theory is that since the heavy silk in the zigzag pattern reflects ultraviolet light as flowers do, it is designed to attract inexperienced insects to an early, untimely death. Indeed, with the addition of the colorful spider in the center, these constructions do suggest a large flower with radiating petals.

A final theory is that the ladders are there to give a male access to the female. Since the spokes of these webs are not sticky as the rings are, the ladders insure a male will make it to his destination.

The male is a quarter of the size of the female and builds a smaller parallel web above or below hers. He courts her by plucking the strands of her web. If given permission, he will access her web but, alas, after mating he will die and she will eat his remains.

Regardless of which theory you prefer, orbs certainly are a fascinating group of spiders that announce the impending arrival of fall each year.

A Silver Argiope is being courted by a suitor. Notice pie crust-crimping around the female's abdomen. © Meredith French

Meet the Funnel Weavers

San Diego's other late-summer visitor is the Funnel Weaver Spider from the family *Agelenidae*. Sometimes referred to as the Grass Spider, this spider is extremely valuable to the home vegetable grower because it feasts on beetles, flies, moths and other bugs. There are around 300 species in North America, but the most common local one is the Corner Spider or *Hololena curta*. *Hololena nedra* is often seen here as well.

Like the orbs, Funnel Weavers are sit-and-wait predators. But unlike them, Funnel Weavers have excellent eyesight from their eight eyes arranged in two rows. Also unlike the orbs, this spider prefers shade and occasional moisture.

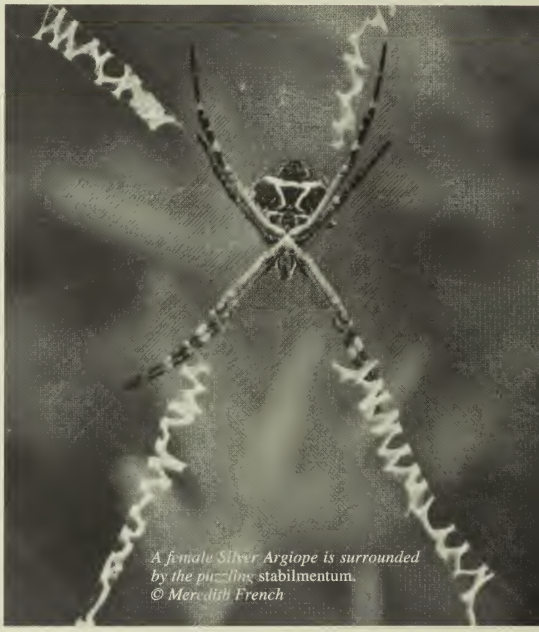
Funnel Weavers hide in the funnels of their intricate webs that appear to lie like a sheet over surrounding plant and duff material. These webs can be several inches to several feet wide and are most visible after an early morning dew. They are true marvels of construction.

A rare glimpse of the funnel spider, Hololena nedra, *the eating machine of farms and gardens. © Meredith French*

In appearance, Funnel spiders somewhat resemble Wolf spiders but Funnel Weavers have a much lighter build designed for amazingly fast movement when a vibration is felt on the web's surface. Often its movement is so quick, it can be easily missed. But in general, the whole group is quite elusive, preferring to hang out at the back and out of view in their cozy funnel webs.

In both families of spiders, eggs are laid late summer into fall and are meticulously wrapped in silk cocoons to winter over until spring. By mid-summer, the new spiderlings are grown and ready to weave their fascinating webs, mate and repeat this wondrous cycle once again. Watch where you step as you seek out these harbingers of fall in a garden near you.

– Meredith French is a professional photographer and Master Gardener. She recently joined the board of the San Diego Floral Association.



A female Silver Argiope is surrounded by the puzzling stabilmentum. *© Meredith French*

Did You Know...?

Nursery Opens in the Water Conservation Garden

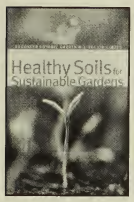
Starting Oct. 1, visitors to The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College will be able to purchase some of the plants on view in the garden's waterwise displays. Located just inside the front gate, a new nursery will sell plants grown by Cuyamaca's Department of Ornamental Horticulture. Look for such popular drought-tolerant mainstays as *Gaura lindheimeri*, Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*).

Gardeners can view the plants in a landscape setting as they stroll around the 5-acre garden, which includes succulent, native and bird and butterfly gardens among its educational displays. Visitors also are encouraged to explore the Cuyamaca College Campus Nursery adjacent to the garden.

The Water Conservation Garden is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Campus Nursery hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. More info is at www.thegarden.org. – *Mary James*

Reviews

All of the books reviewed in *California Garden* are part of the San Diego Floral Association Library collection (located in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA). Come, browse—and if you're a SDFA member—check them out!



Healthy Soils for Sustainable Gardens

Edited by Niall Dunne
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
$9.95 (Paperback); 120 pages

You will find this book more interesting if you read some of the last chapters first. Start with something you want to learn more about such as how to grow vegetables, perennials, roses, trees or shrubs. Or read about how to solve problems you may have in your garden such as how to garden on a slope or what to do about compacted soil.

This is a small book, but packed with information from many soil and horticulture experts. However, I found it difficult to really get into until I skipped to the back and read about some of the topics mentioned above. Then I returned to the book's beginning and found the style more accessible. The beginning chapters set the stage for the later details of how to make your soil better for growing vegetables or flowers and how to combat some common garden soil problems.

You will get acquainted with mycorrhizae and learn why one author calls it "marvelous." For the record, mycorrhizal fungi form networks of very fine strands that extend yards from the plant's roots into the surrounding soil, increasing the absorptive surface of the plant's root system. These fungi have also been shown to enhance plant growth, make plants more resilient to drought, and protect plants from certain harmful fungal pathogens. In the chapter, Ecology of the Soil, you will discover how to create a soil environment that nurtures the presence of mycorrhizae in your soil.

Also inside this fact-filled book are chapters on essential nutrients, composting, fertilizing, mulching, gardening in challenging conditions, and soil care for specific plants. All topics are orientated toward sustainability, of your plot of land as well as all of the land available for tillage.

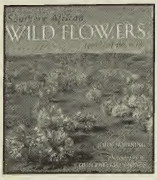
I think you can grow plants in almost any condition if you pay attention to the soil. I garden on a small patch of land on a 45 degree slope filled with round rocks - Linda Vista sediment, my geology son calls it. It has taken years and plenty of experimentation to develop this soil. Many different kinds of plants now grow here from leucadendron to roses.

As the writers of this book observe: "It's no exaggeration to say that a healthy soil is critical to the health of plants – and by extension, all life on earth." – *Barbara P. Clark*

Southern African Wild Flowers, Jewels of the Veld

By John Manning; Colin Paterson Jones, photographer
New Holland Publishing
$55, (Hardback); 176 pages

Since I have been there, I can agree with the opening words of this book: "Southern Africa is a botanical treasure trove, spilling over with floral jewels of all colors and shapes."



In addition to vegetation, this book recounts the region's long history. In 1597, a *Protea nerufolia* arrived in Holland from Southern Africa. Dutch botanists regarded it as an exotic type of thistle. During these years, ships traveling to the Indies often stopped there for fresh water, not realizing they had landed at one of the richest concentrations of horticulture in the world.

The development of a permanent shipping port at Cape Town in 1652 made it possible for many exotic species to reach Europe and be added to horticultural collections. After 400 years of discovery, there are still new species being found every year.

There are three major chapters in this book: "Land of Plenty," "Fynbos Country," and "The Thirstlands." Many sub chapters describe in detail the geography and the vegetation of each of these areas. Brilliant photography and a map help guide readers through their journey in Southern Africa.

"Land of Plenty" is a richly vegetated strip along the eastern seaboard of Southern Africa. Mountains and rivers provide water for a plant mosaic of vegetation.

Savanna, grasslands, and temperate and tropical forests are home to a massive variety of horticulture. These areas are described in sub-chapters with evocative titles like "Barrier of Spears" and "Land of Gold."

"Fynbos Country" is an area at the south western tip of Africa dominated by fynbos or "fine bush," evergreen shrubs with hard, often needle-like leaves. Though the plants appear similar at first glance, fynbos vegetation is among the richest in the world. In addition to fynbos, this region is home to some 9,000 species of flowering plants, including wiry cape reeds and various bulbs, many in the *Amaryllis* family.

"The Thirstlands" is the vast region of arid lands covering northwest Southern Africa. Here some of the regions are named "Bulb Capital," "Bastion of Rarity," "Last Oasis," "A Grassy Desert," "River of Diamonds" and "Coast of Contrasts." Unique plant life flourishes with rainfall just under 10 inches annually. Coastal fog supplies extra moisture essential for the survival of many plants.

In each of these chapters the vegetation is described in detail with incredible photography to enable readers to better understand and enjoy the variety and beauty of this unique part of the world.

This journey is provided by John Manning, a research botanist at the National Botanical Institute in Cape Town. His research interests include the evolution and pollination biology of Southern Africa plants.

Colin Paterson Jones is a professional natural history photographer and writer with a special interest in photographing Southern African wildflowers and their interaction in nature with birds, insects and animals. Both are widely acclaimed and published scientists.

Having traveled through much of this area, I recommend this book to past travelers of Southern Africa to allow them to revisit this incredible land, to future travelers for planning purposes, and for non-travelers to enable them to take a beautiful and informative arm-chair trip to Southern Africa. – *Kay Harry*

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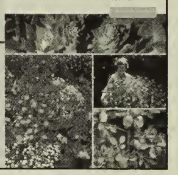

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Judy's Perennials

By Judy Wigand

A Garden Design

This cottage garden blooms with a casual but deft mix of waterwise plants

Photo: Bob Wigand

Penstemon 'Frosty Pink'

Photo: Bob Wigand

'Iceberg' rose

Salvia leucantha 'Midnight'

Photo: Bob Wigand

Many gardeners use San Diego's fall planting season as an opportunity to refresh or redesign garden beds. It's easier to do this work in the cooler weather, than the heat of summer. Plus the lower temperatures help the newly planted landscape begin to become established, ready to benefit from the rainy season ahead.

With this in mind, here is a complementary arrangement of drought-tolerant plants reminiscent of a cottage garden.

Old-fashioned cottage gardens will always be a popular style due their informal use of flowering plants. If it's of any size at all, these gardens may even seem a bit on the wild side, but you can be sure there is a gardener who has used a certain amount of sound theory to create it.

This kind of garden is usually found brimming with colorful perennials, shrub roses and old fashioned annuals and bulbs. Plants casually mingle and merge into one another, as if they were seeded by nature. This casual style allows its creators a good deal of freedom to be as wild or restrained as they wish to be.

To begin, select a sunny site large enough to comfortably hold the plants intended, measuring for their mature size. Consider placing the garden where it can be enjoyed daily, for example, in view of a picture window or near a frequented patio or lawn area. If using the plants recommended below, the site must be no smaller than 10 feet by 14 feet or 140 square feet, whether it's a circle, kidney-shaped or rectangle. It's best to avoid planting in a straight narrow line, as the plants need to interact with each other in order to be visually effective.

We'll start this design with my "anchor plant," *Salvia leucantha* 'Midnight,' commonly known as Mexican bush sage. The deep purple spires on this large growing sage make a good beginning to almost any garden style. We will use this plant to fill in the background area of the small garden we're designing, so allow plenty of room for its mature size of 4 feet high and 5 to 6 feet wide. Most of us want that filled-in-look as quickly as possible but try to resist the temptation of planting young immature plants too closely, as it inhibits their natural beauty when they reach full size. If it helps, have a tape measure on hand.

A true cottage garden is never without roses. Roses easily extend the flowering season from spring into late fall, and since color is a main emphasis, repeat blooming roses are important additions. And I have found several shrub roses that, once established, grow and bloom very well without a lot of water.

In this cottage-themed garden, there is room for two shrub roses that will take up about one-third of the planting area. A white rose is a smart choice since that color helps offset all other colors such as red, pink, purple, orange and yellow. 'Iceberg' rose gracefully fills that order with its clusters of crisp white flowers, blooming in great profusion on a plant that is a billowy 5 feet

Bonica' rose and *Nepeta x faassenii*

high and wide when mature. This rose carries strong qualities of disease resistance and vigorous growth.

Allow at least 4 feet of ground space when placing the 'Iceberg' rose, either behind or angled to the side of the Mexican bush sage, which has its own 5-foot space allowance

'Bonica' rose is my other choice due to its ease of care and low water requirements. This shrub rose, which deserves more recognition, is one of the most endearing with clusters of ruffled, pure pink blooms. Its bushy growth habit reaches 4 feet tall and wide and it is considered extremely disease resistant.

Place 'Bonica' to the opposite side of the Mexican bush sage and 'Iceberg' rose.

Given adequate time to develop, these taller growing plants will serve as the backdrop, framing the structure of the garden. Of course, not knowing the shape of this garden in your landscape makes it difficult to recommend placement, yet one can now visualize the relationship these shrubby roses and the sage have with each other. If necessary, simply improvise their placement according to the shape of the area being planted.

In the foreground

To enhance the foreground of this planting, try a few lower growing perennials that offer showy flowers over many months. Penstemon is an excellent choice. Also known as beard tongue, these perennials are highly prized for their long bloom cycle and upright stalks of tubular flowers. They bloom heavily through spring and summer, intermittently throughout the remainder of the year.

There are many native penstemons to choose from but unfortunately most are shorter-lived in garden culture. Hybrid selections are more garden friendly and come in a wide array of glorious colors. All penstemons resent wet feet, so good drainage is important for their survival.

For this garden, I recommend placing three hybrid penstemons, fairly close or in mass, to create a more dramatic effect of colorful bloom. Consider the colors as you place them. Pinks and burgundy tones should be nearest the 'Iceberg' rose and white or pale colored penstemon should be nearer the purple sage or 'Bonica' rose. Try to avoid planting them in a straight line, spacing them about 2 feet to 3 feet apart. These upright plants grow 2 to 3 feet high and wide.

Penstemon 'Apple Blossom' is a charmer with its pink outer petals and white throat, *P.* 'Frosty Pink' is similar in form and color. There are a few dark burgundy hybrids that are very striking and give good color contrast, such as *P.* 'Blackbird' or 'Burgundy Giant.' A pure white form, *P.* 'Holly's White' is a lovely choice and would help with the white balance in this garden scene but avoid placing it near the white 'Iceberg' rose. *P.* 'Thorn' is another white form with a slight hint of pink to its blossoms.

Another colorful player in this garden scheme is the dwarf sweet-pea shrub, *Polygala* 'Petite Butterfly'. This hybrid is a dwarf version of the common, larger growing sweet pea shrub, yet offers a tighter, more compact growth habit of 2 ½ feet high and 3 feet wide. 'Petite Butterfly' flowers nonstop almost year-round. Small, purplish-pink, sweet pea-shaped flowers are borne in clusters along its branch tips.

Place 'Petite Butterfly' nearest the 'Iceberg' rose for a contrast of color, but if room allows, plant another to the far end near the 'Bonica' rose.

Finishing touches

What we now have is a cottage-style garden favoring a pastel color theme, which is always easy-on the-eyes. If you prefer more vivid colors, you could replace the medium-pink 'Bonica' with a 'Brilliant Pink Iceberg' or the newest strain, 'Burgundy Iceberg.' Both roses are color mutations of the renowned white 'Iceberg' and carry the same winning qualities.

If the ground near the edges of the front and sides of the garden planting is bare, fill in with misty lavender catmint, *Nepeta x faassenii*. This is a graceful ground cover blooming small bluish-lavender flowers against its grayish green foliage, reaching only 1 foot high and 2 feet wide. So therefore, every two feet of bare ground can be filled with catmint.

One thing to keep in mind when forming a new garden area is to interplant seasonal annuals that help fill in the gaps while more permanent plants become established and grow to maturity. Check your local nurseries for showy annuals such as cosmos, flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana*), spider flower (*Cleome*) and lemon-yellow sunflowers. All are easy to start from seed, so why not experiment!

As you form your cottage garden, think about a few props that would bring the cottage-theme more into play. For instance, place a birdbath near the front where it can be viewed and enjoyed daily. You could also erect a simple 2-foot tall white picket fence to encircle the garden, with a small gate or opening allowing entrance. A pedestal birdhouse is always a delight and can be staged in various places where blooms are most abundant. Staging three near each other would be more dynamic than one. Let your imagination run free as you exercise your own individual taste.

– Judy Wigand is a lecturer and freelance garden writer. She operated Judy's Perennials, a specialty nursery, for 15 years in San Marcos.

A Plant Palette for the Ages

These favorites are ideal for California's climate and today's no-fuss gardens

By Nan Sterman

As an expert on Mediterranean and desert-climate plants for California, I sometimes ask myself whether they are another fad.

Remember the era of coral trees and tree ferns? Or the ivy, ficus and juniper fad? Or the bird of paradise and Indian hawthorn era? Thank goodness these fads are past.

But Mediterranean and desert-climate plants a fad? I don't think so.

I've been growing these plants for decades. They offer up a seemingly endless palette of colors, textures, sizes, life-cycles and cultural requirements. They are perfectly suited to California's climate and Californians' lifestyles. That makes them "beyond fad" in my mind.

As a native Californian, I often feel these plants are part of my genetic code. Yes, I love the broadleaf plants of the East coast, and the thirsty ornamentals from Asia and the tropics; but to me, they just don't look right in our landscapes.

In my garden, there are hints of the tropics and even Asia in potted plants on my front porch and back patio. The rest of my very large garden, however, is purely Mediterranean - with desert accents.

My books emphasize this plant palette. I write about the best ways to grow these plants, about mulches and drip irrigation, about skipping the fertilizers and pesticides, about minimal pruning and maximum enjoyment. That's what I practice and the way I design gardens for other people.

The Mediterranean and desert-plant palettes offer so many options that I cringed when asked to pick my top 10 low-water plants. That's like picking my favorite child! Besides, my list constantly changes. But here are my picks – at least for this month.

1. *Papaver somniferum* (Breadseed Poppies)

In fall, sprinkle tiny black poppy seeds onto smoothed ground in full to part sun and let Mother Nature do the rest. Come spring, you'll have dozens of 2-3 foot tall stems lined in gray-green ruffled leaves. Atop each are large, purple or raspberry, cup-shaped flowers with black centers. As the flowers mature, petals fall off to reveal beautiful big pods often used in flower arrangements. I let the pods dry in place; then I turn them over and shake. Seeds fly out like salt out of a shaker. Next year, more poppies!

2. *Arctotis* 'Pink Sugar'

My garden was on tour last spring at the peak of 'Pink Sugar' bloom. I could have sold a million of these gray-leaved South African perennials. Plants grow 8 inches tall and three feet across. In spring and fall, they produce flushes of big, daisy-shaped flowers with deep pink-blushed orange petals surrounding gold centers. The color combination is irresistible. Plant in full sun. Cut stems back once a year or when they get leggy.

3. *Leucospermum* (Pincushion)

These exotic-looking newcomers to the horticultural scene have been florist favorites for ages. They are wide (6-8 feet) but not tall (4-5 feet) shrubs with branches lined in soft, flocked green leaves with scalloped edges. They make the perfect no-prune screen. Besides, if you prune pincushions, you lose their best features: hundreds of fist-sized, pincushion-like blooms in white to yellow, pink to red, orange, and combinations thereof. Plant in full sun and about any soil. I often lose pincushions left in nursery cans. For best results, plant them within a week or two after buying them.

4. *Tithonia* (Mexican and Bolivian Sunflower)

I have long grown annual Mexican sunflower (*Tithonia rotundifolia)* with its enormous, hot-orange blooms. But, I was photographing a streetscape when the big *yellow* blooms of another *Tithonia* caught my eye. *Tithonia diversifolia*, the perennial Bolivian sunflower, forms a tall (12 to 16 feet) shrub-like mound of upright branches, each topped with big yellow flowers. Like annual *Tithonia,* its leaves are lobed. The fleshy stems propagate easily from cuttings, so I now have an eight-foot tall plant of my own. It grows in sunny, well drained soil with no irrigation. If watered, it probably would grow taller.

5. *Acacia stenophylla* (Shoestring Acacia)

Acacia baileyana's pollen sends me into sneezing fits and *Acacia longifolia* is dirty, buggy, and aggressive. So at one point, I labelled all acacias "yucky." I've since encountered wonderful acacias, lovely, smallish trees or large shrubs that add magic to the garden. A fave is shoestring acacia, a tall, narrow acacia with long, weeping foliage in a soft bluish-green. Young tree bark is mottled brown and green with pink, maturing to almost mahogany. Small, buff-colored puffballs that appear in spring flower season don't amount to much. I most appreciate this tree's moderate height (20-30 feet) and foliage so wispy that plenty of light reaches plants in the understory. Plant in full sun and don't overwater after establishment.

6. *Cercidium* 'Desert Museum' (Palo Verde 'Desert Museum')

Years ago, I hauled a pair of these palo verdes home from Palm Desert and planted them at the entry to our home. One succumbed to competition from a nearby pepper tree; the other stands majestic in the garden. As a young tree, 'Desert Museum' flowered sporadically. Now, it is covered in profusions of large

Photo: Nan Sterman

Aloe ferox

Photo: Nan Sterman

Leucospermum (Pincushion)

Tithonia diversifolia
(Bolivian Sunflower)

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Photo: Nan Sterman

Papaver somniferum (Breadseed Poppy)

gold flowers much of the year. 'Desert Museum' grows slowly to about 20 feet tall and wide. It is thornless, doesn't reseed and needs very little water. Avoid planting right along the coast – too humid – or in the mountains – too cold. In between is just right.

7. *Cotinus coggygria* (Purple Smoke Tree)

Really more a shrub than tree, purple smoke tree wears round, cabernet-colored leaves from spring until late fall. Site this plant to be backlit in the afternoon to show off its fall colors – scarlet, auburn and gold. They'll look like stained glass. In summer, tufts of tiny flowers appear. To me, they are a distraction. Instead, I appreciate the leaf color and shape as it contrasts with almost anything else in the garden. Full to part sun; most soils.

Photo: Ruth Wolfe/Mary McBride

Watsonia (Bugle Lily)

8. *Watsonia* (Bugle Lily)

In October, the leaf tips of *Watsonia* bulbs poke out of the soil to remind me of the circle of life. They were last seen months earlier, withering and brown as they began their summertime slumber. It is a strategy shared by many arid-climate bulbs to survive hot, dry months. As the air and soil cool, they begin their cycle anew. By April, *Watsonia* sport spikes of trumpet-shaped flowers in coral, peach, pink, white and cherry red. I'm always impressed the duration of their bloom - a month or two at least. From July until early October, *Watsonia* are available as dormant bulbs. Plant in full sun and well draining soil that doesn't get too much summer water.

9. *Halimium* sp

I have mixed success with rockrose (*Cistus*), but have great success with its cousin *Halimium*. This Mediterranean native is a more diminutive shrub (2-4 feet tall) with small, fuzzy, olive-green leaves and rockrose-shaped yellow flowers, some with deep red dots at the base of each petal. They take the heat, bloom their heads off from spring into summer, and are just adorable. They can be a challenge to find so keep your eyes peeled in spring and summer when they are available in nurseries or look for them on-line. There are also *Cistus-Halimium* crosses called *Halimocistus*. Their flowers are a bit larger than *Halimium*. They too are also fabulous garden plants.

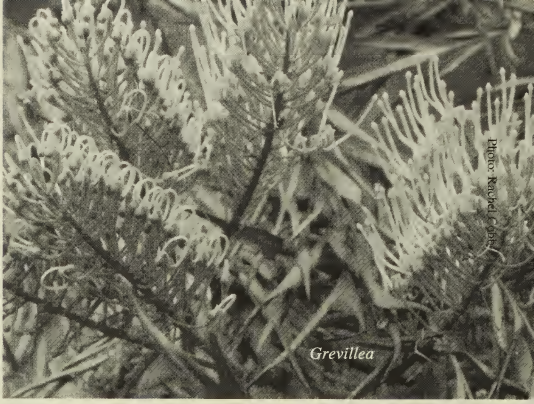
Photo: Rachel Clark

Grevillea

10. *Grevillea*

Grevilleas are fantastic Australian shrubs that grow from 18 feet tall ('Long John') to just a few feet tall *(G. lanigera, G. gaudichaudii,* and others). All are evergreen but leaves can be broad and lobed, short and needle-like, long and wispy, and so on. Flowers are white to red, yellow to orange, burgundy to pink, all curled and in clusters. These are *the* plants for attracting hummingbirds! Grow as specimens, groundcovers, fillers, informal hedges and screens, etc. in full sun to light shade. Avoid overwatering established plants, especially in summer.

11. *Aloe*

Yes I know this takes me over 10, but my list of favorites isn't complete without it. My love affair with aloes started when I was growing up in LA. I adore the coral candelabras that adorned old bungalow gardens in winter. I'm so pleased they are enjoying resurgence. These succulent gems can be tall and tree-like (*A. barberae*) to climbing (*A. ciliaris*) to mounding shrubs (*A. speciosa)* to short and mounding groundcovers (*A. saponaria*). All have fleshy, succulent leaves, and all make spikes of fantastic, tubular flowers, most often in winter. Some aloes won't survive temperatures much below 30 degrees F., so do the research before you plant.

– Nan Sterman is a horticulturist, garden designer and author. Her latest book is Water-wise Plants for the Southwest, *coauthored with Mary Irish, Judith Phillips, and Joe Lamp'l (Cool Springs Press, $19.95). On Sept. 25, she and two other experts will be teaching a class at the San Diego Botanic Garden on "Water-wise Gardening from the Ground Up." Details are at www.sdbgarden.org. More on Sterman is at www.plantsoup.com.*

Some planting tips

Fall through early spring are our best planting months, so its time to get busy. All of these plants do best in well-draining, lean soils. With heavier soils, let soil dry out in between waterings. Or, layer on well-composted organic mulch for a year or two to improve soil drainage before you plant.

All also are drought tolerant *after* the first year or two when they become established. During this period, they need damp (not wet) soil. Cover all bare soil with a two to three-inch layer of mulch at all times, but don't let it touch the plants. It's okay for a plant to eventually grow over the mulch.

These plants require no fertilizers, have very few insect pests, and need little-to-no pruning. Low water, low maintenance, beautiful! What more could you ask? – *Nan Sterman*

ROOTS

Profiles in Horticultural History

By Nancy Carol Carter

George P. Hall

Home vegetable growers in early America suffered no shortage of instructional garden books. Initially these were English imports, but enterprising American writers soon were adapting the accepted wisdom on growing beans and all manner of other food plants to horticultural conditions in the United States.

The Kitchen Gardener's Instructor was published in New York in 1836 and *The Vegetable Garden, A Complete Guide* appeared in 1852. The latter title was updated in more than 30 subsequent editions. Ida Dandridge Bennett, best known for books on flower gardens, contributed her thoughts on vegetables in 1908 and the Burpee Seed Company distributed *Vegetables for the Home Garden* in 1912.

The special growing conditions in California were belatedly addressed by Edward James Wickson in *The California Vegetable in Garden and Field, A Manual of Practice,* published in 1897 in San Francisco.

Fourteen years later, the first vegetable gardening book for Southern California was published in San Diego, by the bombastic, idealistic and often cranky horticulturist, George P. Hall. Members of the San Diego Floral Association learned that Hall was working on a gardening book at their January 1911 meeting. It would be based on his past writings, including columns from the *San Diego Union* and *California Garden*. "The need for such a book, dealing with conditions as they exist in Southern California, has long been felt," reported *California Garden*.

In September 1911, Hall's new book, *Garden Helps,* was available for purchase through the San Diego Floral Association and at several local nurseries for 75 cents per copy. The work was printed in San Diego as a soft cover book of 120 pages. This book is hard to find now. The San Diego History Center (formerly the Historical Society) has a copy and just two other major California libraries list it within their collections. Other copies are at the University of Chicago, New York Public Library, National Agriculture Library and the Library of Congress. The latter has an electronic version of *Garden Helps* which can be read online or downloaded.

Hall's introduction to *Garden Helps* refers to the "boundless stores of Nature" in California and suggests that the parched lands at the southern end of the state might fulfill the Old Testament prophecy of a desert that blossoms as the rose. This grandiose opening is followed by practical information on topics like soil, irrigation, cultivation, propagation, pests, and fertilizers. More than 50 different vegetables are individually discussed, and shorter sections delve into herbs and ornamental plants. The book includes a "Calendar of Operations" with a month-to-month guide on planting and garden upkeep. While notable as a first Southern California garden book, this self-published work probably had limited distribution.

By the time Hall's groundbreaking book on gardening in Southern California was published, he was a well known character in San Diego. During the Civil War, he served with the 2nd Nebraska Cavalry which quelled an Indian uprising in the Dakota Territory, rather than encountering rebel troops. Unfortunately, very few facts are available about Hall's horticulture work and training before he relocated to San Diego around 1891.

Hall became a member of the San Diego chapter of the Civil War veterans group, the Grand Army of the Republic. He also was employed as the horticultural commissioner for San Diego County, and served as president of the California State Board of Horticulture Commissioners.

The State Board of Horticulture educated growers on how to improve their crops and successfully market them. Hall made his mark by developing the lemon industry in California. He had strong ideas about the proper way to prune lemon trees and how they should be protected from pests. He was an effective commissioner, although he was once taken to task by the *Los Angeles Times* for professing faith in water witching, or dowsing, as a means of finding ground water.

San Diegans knew Hall as an outspoken commentator on civic affairs. His frequent letters to the editor were always long and often strident. Hall advocated planting projects to beautify streets and called for the establishment of parks throughout San Diego. He castigated city officials for neglecting trees already established in public places.

George P. Hall

Horticulturist, Little Lander, and author of the first Southern California garden book on vegetables.

Born: April 22, 1841 | Died: May 12, 1915

DIG DEEPER WITH:

- George P. Hall, *Garden Helps*. San Diego: Elite Printing, 1911. Available online www.loc.gov.
- Lawrence B. Lee, "The Little Landers Colony of San Ysidero," *Journal of San Diego History,* 21, no. 1 (Winter 1975).

Hall jumped into the controversy regarding the city's failure to make improvements to City Park (later renamed Balboa Park). In an 1898 issue of the *San Diego Union*, he described the 1,400 acre park as "a scab, a miserable unsightly desert." When the city did adopt a park improvement plan in 1902, Hall called the idea of developing the entire park "preposterous" and strenuously objected to hiring an outside landscape architect.

Later, as the 1915 Panama-California Exposition was being planned for Balboa Park, he suggested the erection of permanent buildings, including a horticultural hall. He also wanted to see lakes, a natural stadium and a crystal building with tree lined avenues radiating from it.

Hall spoke at public meetings and wrote extensively about his heartfelt endorsement of the Little Landers Colony established in San Diego County at San Ysidro. This back-to-the-land movement advocated intensive farming on affordable plots of land as a means of independence for those "mired in industrial slavery." The slogan "A Little Land and a Living" encapsulated a belief that, with the correct agricultural methods and cooperative marketing of produce, economic independence could be achieved on just one or two acres of land.

In 1908, Hall became the agricultural advisor of the Little Landers settlement and later the president of Little Landers Incorporated. Colony founder William E. Smythe said that Hall's "was the first hoe to strike the ground," when new settlers arrived. Perhaps it was his early work with the inexperienced farmers at the colony that encouraged Hall to bring his vegetable-growing knowledge together into a book. In the face of many problems, Hall remained zealous about the ideals underlying the Little Landers movement, but died the year before the terrible flood of 1916 killed some settlers, destroyed farms and precipitated an end to the Little Landers experiment in San Diego.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Sept. 13: Native Plants of Torrey Pines Reserve

Native plant expert and author Margaret Fillius will share her insights on and photos of beautiful and useful annual and perennial plants of San Diego County. Copies of her book will be available for sale. Members free, non-members $10.

Oct. 11: Desert Plants for San Diego

Join horticulturist Wendy Proud as she shares the newest group of drought-tolerant plants to hit the market. Learn how desert-adapted plants can be the perfect solution to some of the most difficult situations and at the same time offer amazing beauty. Members free, non-members $10.

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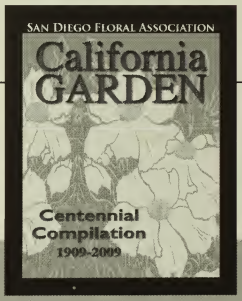

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Now is the time

Timely tips to keep your plants happy throughout September and October

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society

- Wash your hands and tools after grooming each plant to avoid spreading any unseen insects.
- Toss old violet soil outside after repotting. The nutrients break down and are no longer helpful to the violet.
- Propagate new plants by putting cut leaves in an equal mixture of perlite and vermiculite to propagate. Hold these "mother" leaves almost vertical by propping up with plastic straws or toothpicks – the wooden ones rot quickly. This process will take two or three months.
- Create small greenhouses for your new plants by placing a plastic bag over the top of the pot and securing it with a rubber band. Cut a tiny hole for air circulation.

Photo: Rachel Cobb

BEGONIAS

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

- Feed tuberous begonias in September. Withhold water in October.
- Pinch back and give final feeding to begonias in October, unless you feed all year with a balanced fertilizer.
- Take cuttings and leaves for starting new plants.
- Water sparingly; do not allow to dry out or keep too wet.

BONSAI

San Diego Bonsai Club

- Adjust watering schedule to the variable weather. Shallow pots may require watering as often as two or three times daily on hot, dry, windy days.
- Transplant wisteria if you want blossoms next spring.
- Repot quince, olives and podocarpus.
- Move deciduous trees to cool shaded areas so they won't sprout unwanted growth.
- Fertilize lightly or not at all in October if you fertilized in September.
- Wait until spring for any major transplanting.

BROMELIADS

Mary Seimers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

- Continue watering and cut down as water cools off. When experiencing Santa Ana conditions, plants need to be watered frequently to avoid sunburn and hard hot wind damage.
- Check plants for scale. If found, they can be treated with horticultural oil (also known as Sun Oil) according to directions on the label.
- Keep plants clean at all times by cutting off dead leaves and spent blossoms.
- To keep snails and slugs away, remove all debris from the plant area and spread wood ashes around it.

CACTUS and SUCCULENTS

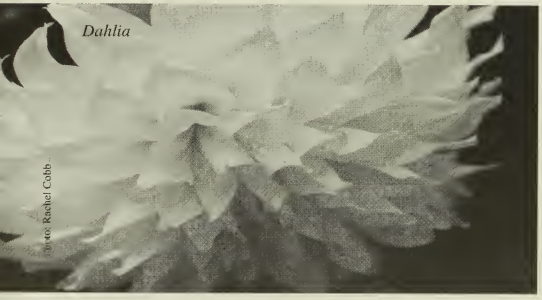
Don and Laura Starr, The Grateful Shed

- As always, clean and groom your plants, removing desiccated leaves, dried flower stalks, and any other unwanted materials around the base of the plant. This keeps unwanted pests out and allows water to reach plants more efficiently.
- If you are propagating cuttings, now is a good time to plant those you see rooting. Remember to keep newly planted cuttings out of direct south-facing sun, especially if you live inland.
- Fall is the time when summer growers are beginning to rest and winter growers (senecio, kalanchoe and aeoniums) are starting their active periods. Don't fertilize plants now but continue to supply water to all succulents.
- Continue to water in the early morning to allow plants to absorb moisture all day and avoid attracting pests. Rotting can occur if they remain damp in the cooler overnight hours. If there is rain, check around the base of the plants to see if they need watering.
- Remember, succulents in containers always need more water than those in the ground. Be sure the container bottoms don't sit in water.
- Keep fighting pests by being proactive and treating or removing at the first sign of problems. Many unwanted critters find succulents appealing for their moisture. This includes birds than can peck away at fresh leaves.

CAMELLIAS

Sharon Lee, San Diego Camellia Society

- Optionally fertilize monthly (September through January) with 0-10-10 for extra large buds.
- Disbudding is also optional. Removing all but the largest bud where bud clusters exist will provide larger but fewer blooms. Some camellia aficionados remove all but one bud per bunch to achieve the ultimate show-quality bloom.
- Keep camellias watered and mulched. September and October can be very hot months. While camellias are not water-hungry they don't like to dry out. Regular watering is the best practice. Inconsistent watering is a primary cause of bud drop during the blooming season.
- Be on the lookout for insects.
- Enjoy your *Camellia sasanqua* blooms. Although sasanqua blooms are typically smaller, they are very profuse. Many are in vibrant shades of pink. Spent petals form a beautiful pink carpet when they fall to the ground.
- Sasanquas begin blooming in September, some bloom through the holidays i.e. Camellia Sasanqua 'Yuletide.' Other beautiful Sasanquas to look for are 'Dazzler,' 'Hana Jiman,' 'Bonanza,' 'Showa-na-sake' and 'Shishi Gashira.'



DAHLIAS

Dave Tooley, San Diego Dahlia Society

- Clean up old leaves and stalks.
- Spray to prevent mildew and spider mites.
- Maintain regular watering through October, then cut back gradually.
- Feed with potash to promote good root growth and to keep plants healthy during the winter.

EPIPHYLLUMS

Phil Peck, San Diego Epiphyllum Society

- Protect plants from exposure to direct sunlight.
- Spray-mist to during warm spells. Keep stems clean and dust free.
- Prevent soil from completely drying out.
- Protect new growth from wind damage; stake plants and carefully tie to trellis.
- Check for snails and slugs. A few granules of snail bait at the base of the plant are effective and leave little or no residue.
- Feed plants with a final feeding of balanced fertilizer before they become semi-dormant.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

- Keep removing old fronds.
- Water frequently, as most ferns are in full growth now.
- Fertilize with half-strength high-nitrogen liquid or slow-release pellets.
- Spray for aphids, thrips and scale. Keep looking for snails and slugs. Use bait as needed.
- Watch for giant white fly. Treat by wiping off egg spirals.
- Collect and sow spores. New spores should be coming on regularly.
- Protect your plants from the sun. Very few ferns like full sun on hot days.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Continue periodic, thorough irrigation to maintain adequate soil moisture until winter rains begin.
- Operate drip irrigation systems until we receive at least two inches of rain. This prevents salt injury.
- Prune out dead and severely damaged shoots of deciduous trees before foliage drops.
- Cover maturing fruit clusters with paper bags (poke small holes for ventilation) to protect maturing fruit from yellow jackets and birds.
- Check on maturity of kiwi fruit. Maturity is measured by a change in seed color from white to brown or black. Pick large fruit first, but harvest before fruit softens.
- Check new "flush" growth on citrus for Asian citrus psyllid. Visit www.californiacitrusthreat.org for photos and information.

HERBS

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Prune summer's dead growth on perennial herbs such as lavender and rosemary.
- Fertilize and amend all herb beds.
- Plant perennial herbs such as mints, French sorrel, Roman chamomile and comfrey.
- Dry golden ginkgo leaves for tea.
- Harvest rosehips and vitex berries.
- Bury saffron crocus bulbs.

Ginkgo

IRISES

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

- Complete digging and replanting.
- Fertilize again. Iris plants in Southern California grow all winter.
- Plant any new iris you may have purchased. Be sure to label markers in waterproof ink.
- Keep weeds under control. Check for aphids and white fly and spray if necessary.
- Pull off and discard all dead leaves.

NATIVE PLANTS

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Plan your native plant garden.
- Prepare ground; clear leaves and overgrowth.
- Mulch any bare ground lightly especially hillsides.
- Dig holes.
- Plant species of *Ceanothus*, *Salvia*, *Artemisia*, *Arctostaphylos* or *Mimulus* when a real storm is predicted. After the summer the ground is baked dry. Fill a planting hole with water and allow the hole to drain several times before planting.
- Sow wildflower seeds of California poppies, Chinese houses, goldfields and lupines.

Doritaenopsis 'Black Jack'

ORCHIDS

Christopher Croom, San Diego County Orchid Society

- Start moving in your indoor/warmer growers when the nocturnal temperature drops to 60-65 degrees F. Leave Phalaenopsis hybrids outside until the nighttime temperature drops to 55 degrees F. to get them to rebloom.
- Start cutting back on water as the temperature cools.
- Look for spikes on the Phalaenopsis hybrids that you've left out all summer. Move them in when you see the new spikes.
- Water more often during Santa Ana conditions or other heat waves in early fall.
- Look for spikes emerging for many of the Mexican *Laelia* species and their hybrids.

PELARGONIUMS

Jim Zemcik, San Diego Geranium Society

- Let your plants perform. Avoid unnecessary pruning or cutting.
- Continue cleaning plants by removing dead, older and/or damaged leaves. Be especially watchful for geranium rust.
- Continue a steady water cycle. Keep abreast of weather reports. If hot weather is forecast, water before the heat sets in. Do not allow plants to totally dry out.
- Water in the early morning and/or early evenings for best results. Some geraniums will abort all blooms and drop lower foliage if allowed to become too dry.
- Continue feeding with a good commercial fertilizer. Use at 1/3 to 1/2 of the label's recommended strength. Apply at two week intervals. If temperatures go above 80 degrees F. for several days, stop fertilizing. If leaves start to yellow, use an iron supplement such as Ironite.
- Deadhead as soon a blooms pass their peak. The high heat may mark the end of the blooming cycle and deadheading will promote new growth and additional branching.
- Continue a pest prevention program. Budworms peak now. Use a good systemic insecticide for best results. If you use a bio product such as *B. thurengensis*, spray at least every seven days.
- If you are past the prevention stage and have a pest infestation, use a multipurpose product such as Immunox. Follow manufacturers' recommendations.
- Continue to protect plants from severe sun damage. Keep plants out of full sun. Protect larger pots by surrounding them with pots of shorter growing annuals. It may be beneficial when using plastic pots to place a potted plant into a second, empty, container of equal or larger size. This helps to insulate the primary pot and prevent root damage.
- Rotate plants to keep them well shaped and covered with blooms.

PLUMARIAS

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

- Enjoy old and new varieties of blooms, as they are most prolific now. The more you pick, the more they produce.
- Water more often during Santa Ana conditions. It is a good idea to spray the whole plant during very hot days. This spraying also adds stability of the plant base for those plumerias grown in pots.
- Keep fertilizing once a month as in previous growth periods.
- Make sure plants are staked. Because of large leaf growth, plumerias become very top heavy. During Santa Ana winds, they fall easily and you may lose a branch you have been nurturing.
- Remember plumerias love full sun and are very pest resistant. Except for root fungus, it is almost impossible to over water plants in pots. You don't need a moisture meter; use your finger.

ROSES

Al Heck, San Diego Rose Society

- Water well. September and October can include some of the hottest and driest days of the year because of Santa Ana conditions. Imagine a cylinder three feet in diameter and one inch deep. That's how much water each rose needs three times per week. If there's a cool spell, watering two times per week will suffice.
- Enjoy the final bloom cycle of hybrid tea roses. This is the best bloom since April, because the intense heat of our summers is giving way to more moderate temperatures. The final competitive rose shows of the year are during October.
- Remove dust and grime weekly by using a vigorous water spray on the entire rose bush. Roses love it; spider mites hate it.
- Plant roses that you forgot about and left in pots waiting for just this moment. They will have developed a strong root ball and will transplant easily into a prepared location. Remember that they need at least a half day of sunlight in that location. Remember to water well after planting.
- Stop fertilizing. Assuming that you have applied enough fertilizer to support the season's final growth spurt and bloom that occurs in October, fertilizer applied after October 1 will be wasted in senseless and diminishing growth as the rose tries to go dormant.
- Analyze how your roses have performed. Those plants that have given you too much trouble or too few flowers may be candidates for replacement during bare-root season. The 2011 rose catalogs are available soon and you can start thinking about which new roses you will buy as replacements.
- Let rose hips develop. The petals on your unharvested roses will gradually turn ugly and perhaps even show the sickly brown decay caused by the Botrytis fungus. With your hand, grasp all the petals and pull them off in a single move, leaving that part of the bloom to which the petals were attached.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Remove warm-season vegetables that have passed their prime production periods.
- Prepare the soil for planting cool-season vegetables by incorporating composted organic matter and a pre-plant fertilizer high in phosphorus. Begin planting cool-season vegetables: broccoli. Brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, fava beans, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsley, peas, potatoes (white), spinach and turnips.
- Buy seeds of short-day onion hybrids (Grano, Granex), as well as garlic cloves to plant in November for bulb production next summer. Onion sets can be planted for a quick crop of green onions, but not for bulbs.
- Dig sweet potatoes before any danger of frost. Be careful not to bruise roots. Dry thoroughly (one or two weeks), wrap in newspaper and store close to 60 degrees F.

Southern California Plumeria Society

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Plant Sale & Flower Show

Saturday, September 4th

Sunday, September 5th

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Five that Thrive

What to plant? That's the question on gardeners' minds here as San Diego's fall planting season arrives. To help gardeners make wise choices, *California Garden* asked five area experts to pick their top five plants – herbs, bulbs, perennials, succulents and native plants. Look for them in specialty nurseries and fall plant sales around the county.

5 That Thrive Bulbs

By Ruth E. Wolfe and Mary McBride

There are many wonderful bulbs from all over the globe that thrive in our unique climate zone, but the following "Fab Five" are the easiest to grow and hardiest perennial bloomers you can use to add color and some fragrance to your Spring gardens:

Narcissus and Daffodils

All plants commonly called narcissus or daffodils are botanically labeled *Narcissus*. In general, narcissus have multiple and smaller flowers per stem, as compared to daffodils which have one large flower per stem. We can grow fewer varieties of *Narcissus* here than in cold winter climates, but a proper assortment of these bulbs will provide a continuous season of bloom from November to May.

Narcissus prefer sun to partial shade and will grow in most soils. They can be grown in xeriscapes as well as regularly watered gardens. The timing and length of bloom varies with the weather.

Top picks include the following:

***Narcissus* 'Avalanche'** - This heirloom variety will happily thrive and naturalize in anything short of cement. It has a lovely spicy fragrance and blooms early (November-December).

***Narcissus* 'Ice Follies'** - This mid-spring bloomer has white petals with a yellow cup and a light fragrance.

***Narcissus* 'Tahiti'** - Bright yellow/orange double flowers bloom late into May.

Babiana

This small bulb is known as "baboon flower" in its native Africa. It multiplies readily and makes easily viable seed. Babiana will grow in sun or light shade, and adapt to summer water if allowed to dry out in between waterings. In spring, flower spikes emerge from deeply "pleated" green foliage. Commonly available colors are deep blue, deep purple and a pure white. *Babiana* makes a vibrant edge for any border.

Leucojum aestivum

Native to Europe and parts of Asia, *Leucojum* or "summer snowflake" is the West Coast's substitute for the East Coast's spring flowers "snow-drops" and "Lilies of the Valley." They can be grown in all conditions and soils, and will thrive planted under most trees. Starting in late March, one inch stems with dainty white bell shaped flowers tipped in green appear from clumps of

5 That Thrive Herbs

By Aenne Carver

Cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*)

This is a two-for-one herb. The seeds are called coriander, and the leaves are referred to as cilantro. The plant resembles flat leaf parsley, but the leaves are smaller and the flowers that appear in late spring look like a miniature version of Queen Anne's lace.

This two foot tall annual herb enjoys cool weather; in fact it "bolts" (meaning rapid flowering followed by going to seed) in hot temperatures. So, it is best planted in fall. Easy to start from seed, cilantro also is drought-tolerant and pest-free. Cilantro prefers full sun, but tolerates partial shade and all types of soil, except waterlogged.

Yarrow *(Achillea millefolium)*

Yarrow can be planted year round, but fall planting allows you to pick varieties that rebloom in autumn. Additionally, this and other perennial herbs benefit from fall planting because they get established during the rainy season.

All varieties of yarrow are drought tolerant. Plus they are rabbit, snail and deer-proof. This herb has aromatic, low growing, gray to green, ferny leaves, and flat topped blooms on three foot high stems. The butterfly-attracting flowers come in many colors, including cream, pink, red, white and yellow.

Plant yarrow in full sun for the most flowers and divide in fall when the clumps get crowded. 'Paprika' keeps blooming even in hot, dry settings. 'Coronation Gold' has exceptional yellow flowers that dry well.

Lamb's Ears (*Stachys byzantina*)

This herb adds a velvety white-gray color and texture to the garden year-round. The tongue-shaped leaves beg to be stroked, just like a real lamb. Clumps remain a foot tall and spread slowly and politely by surface runners. Although grown for foliage, lamb's ears have attractive purple flowers on tall spikes. This herb is deer proof, drought tolerant, and does not need fertilizing. Avoid overhead watering and soggy soil since lamb's ears rot easily. Plant them in full sun along the coast; provide afternoon shade inland. Every few years, clumps die out in the middle, a signal to divide them in the fall.

Continued page 24

Narcissus
Photo: Ruth E. Wolfe

Leucojum
Photo: Ruth E. Wolfe

Ornithogalum with Aeonium
Photo: Ruth E. Wolfe

Babiana
Photo courtesy of Easy to Grow Bulbs

Yarrow
Photo: Aenne Carver

narcissus-like leaves. There are many varieties of *Leucojum* for our climate zone, but *L.* 'Gravetye Giant' is an improved variety with larger and more numerous flowers.

Ornithogalum

There are many species of *Ornithogalum* that perform well in our climate zone, but *O. thyrsoides (O. umbellatum)* from Europe is one of the best reliable bloomers. They multiply readily to form clumps, bloom best in full sun and thrive in clay soil. Known as "The Star of Bethlehem," these tidy tuffs of border color sport conical spikes of white "star" flowers around Easter. The blooms burst from the bottom of the stem and move upwards. They make an exceptional cut flower that can last for several weeks in an arrangement.

Albuca

These South African bulbs thrive in full sun and any soil. Grown in a xeriscape, they are semi-evergreen, but given low to regular watering they will remain evergreen, form large clumps, and become stunning garden specimens in or out of bloom. *Albuca nelsonii* produces 3-foot tall spikes of white "hanging" flowers with green stripes. They make beautiful cut flowers and have a light fragrance. *Albuca longipes* grows only 8 inches tall but its flowers are intensely fragrant and it blooms for months. Albucas cohabitate nicely with succulents and love granite slopes, but are graceful enough for any deep flower border as an accent plant.

– Ruth E. Wolfe is an Oceanside landscape designer and Master Gardener. Horticulturist Mary McBride is owner of Mary's Garden which specializes in bulbs and rare and unusual plants for San Diego gardens. On Sept. 25, Wolfe and McBride are teaching "Small Budget Solutions for Waterwise Landscapes" at MiraCosta College in Oceanside. For more information, call 760-795-6820.

Albuca nelsonii
Photo: Ruth E. Wolfe

Pot Marigold
Photo: Aenne Carver

Cilantro
Photo: Aenne Carver

Helichrysum petiolare
Photo: Courtesy of San Marcos Growers

Chondropetalum elephantinum
Photo: Courtesy of San Marcos Growers

Herbs continued

Pot marigold *(Calendula officinalis)*

Pot marigold's daisy-like flowers brighten winter gardens with yellows and oranges. Try tossing the edible petals like floral confetti over salads and soups. The plants grow up to three feet tall, depending on the variety, and have narrow, appealing green leaves. This cool weather annual sprouts eagerly from seed, and after it is established, needs little water. Sow seeds in the fall in full sun, or for a jump-start, purchase a six pack of transplants. 'Pacific Beauty Mix' is an old fashioned favorite, but it remains an excellent variety because of its heat resistance and long bloom period.

Garden Sage *(Salvia officinalis)*

Garden sage is practically pest proof and needs little water or care. In fact, fertilizing it causes weak scentless growth. This sage deserves the spotlight in the garden because of its handsome, textured, gray foliage and surprisingly showy purple flowers.

To grow this two foot tall herb, plant in full sun in well draining soil. Good drainage is vital over winter because sage dies if its roots remain wet and cold. Sages tend to be short lived perennials; however, frequent pruning keeps them vigorous longer.

In addition to garden sage *(Salvia officinalis)*, try other culinary sages like tricolor (*Salvia officinalis* 'Tricolor') with purple, white, and green leaves, or golden sage (*Salvia officinalis* 'Aurae') with variegated leaves in gold and green. Get started growing sage now to have plenty for Thanksgiving.

– Aenne Carver is a Master Gardener, writer and lecturer. She will be speaking at the Sept. 29 meeting of the San Diego Floral Association. For details, see Page 3. Visit her web site, www.thethriftygardener.com, for a schedule of her talks and classes.

Ceanothus 'Yankee Point' with Catalina Silverlace (*Eriophyllum nevinii*) Photo: Greg Rubin

Arctostaphylos 'Howard McMinn'
Photo: Courtesy of Las Pilitas Nursery

5 That Thrive Perennials

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Chondropetalum elephantinum
(often sold as *C. tectorum*)

This drought-tolerant clumping perennial is one of many restios (grass-like plants) from South Africa, and makes a fascinating addition to the garden. Picture a spiky plant comprised of long lengths of 1/8-inch diameter round green plastic rods - most otherworldly – which quiver and sway in the slightest breeze. Silvery-tan papery leaf sheaths appear when the plant is in active growth, adding another dimension of form and color. Mine is nearly 6 feet tall and the long leafless stems are an unexpected and long-lasting component in flower arrangements. Restios can fill many garden needs because they vary from a demure 4 inches to a robust 10 feet tall; and while many like damp soil, others are water-thrifty. *Chondropetalum elephantinum* thrives in full sun with very moderate watering once a week. There is some confusion about the correct name of this plant, as there seem to be two different forms (I have the taller form), and some sources list it as *Chondropetalum tectorum*. For an excellent discussion, go to www.smgrowers.com/info/Chondropetalum.asp.

Dichondra argentea 'Silver Falls'

This drought-tolerant silver-foliaged groundcover is an interesting alternative to *Dymondia margaretae*. 'Silver Falls' won't tolerate foot traffic, but it is a show-stopper on a steep slope and fills in quickly when planted from 4-inch pots. I planted mine about 3-feet apart and they made a nice solid mass in a year. A vining plant that roots as it runs, it can help stabilize soils. The softly-hairy, flattened heart-shaped leaves provide good contrast to other leaf shapes. It also is excellent spilling out of a container, provided you can keep it from filling the entire top of the container, should other plants be included.

Helichrysum petiolare

This drought-tolerant soft-leaved South African perennial in the Aster family is grown for its foliage, not its inconspicuous flowers. From a 4-inch pot, this groundcover can grow to cover a 3-4-foot wide area in less than a year. (To avoid rampant growth, give it very little water.) Growing well in full sun to light shade, the roundish mid-green leaves will weave through shrubs and other plants, or form a dense mound, so site it carefully were it won't overgrow more delicate plants in its path. This is also a good plant to use when you have a relatively large area to fill quickly. Three attractive cultivars that make nice additions to the garden or floral arrangements include 'Licorice,' which has silvery-green foliage; 'Licorice Splash,' with cream and soft-green foliage; and 'Limelight,' with chartreuse foliage. Don't use this plant near wild lands, as it has a tendency to self-seed.

Continued page 26

5 That Thrive Native Plants

By Greg Rubin

There are so many great native plants to choose from in this diverse state. However, here are five with the greatest performance and least mortality rate in the widest range of conditions. One could create a simple but elegant garden from just these selections.

Ceanothus 'Yankee Point'

This wild lilac is growing in popularity for a number of reasons. A high-ground cover with fairly large glossy evergreen leaves and rich blue flowers in spring and intermittently afterwards, it is beautiful throughout the year. It is a fast grower, often reaching 10 to 20 feet across in 2 years, while maintaining a height of less than 24 inches. As such, it is an ideal groundcover for large areas, especially slopes, though it will always need some water. Overhead irrigation every 7 to 10 days is usually enough. This moisture tolerance (typically associated with coastal bluff natives) allows this plant to be easily mixed with non-native plants.

'Yankee Point's' only drawback is that it is susceptible to psyllids like white fly, as well as scale and root aphids, which often cause parts of the plant to die off. Controlling ants is usually reduces pest problems.

Baccharis 'Pigeon Point'

This coastal native plant also is moisture tolerant and fire resistant, but has different texture and foliage color than *Ceanothus* 'Yankee Point.' Accordingly it is a good contrast with 'Yankee Point' on slopes and foreground plantings. It reaches 9-12 feet in diameter in about 2 years, while only growing 12-18 inches tall. Its small, rather insignificant yellow flowers are often quite fragrant. The strength of this plant is its medium green leaves and flowing habit. Since all *Baccharis* are pioneer plants, they also help establish the native ecology in a new native garden.

Arctostaphylos 'Howard McMinn'

This is probably the easiest manzanita for landscapes. I've even seen it used in the middle of golf courses! Its broad moisture tolerance supports watering once every 7-10 days in summer once it is established. Evergreen, it grows 4-6 feet tall and 6 feet across, and is covered in thousands of fragrant pinkish-white flowers in early spring. Pruning it up reveals a beautiful, classic Manzanita-branching structure of smooth mahogany red. I like to use this shrub with a similar sized manzanita called 'Sunset,' because the foliage on 'Sunset' is multicolored in warm tones (hence the name) and it displays this color most of the year.

Salvia 'Pozo Blue' or similar

This Cleveland sage-hybrid possesses one of the most heavenly fragrances of any landscape plant, along with astounding color in spring and summer. A hybrid of *Salvia clevelandii* with *S. leucophylla* (one of many), it grows rapidly and tolerates

Continued page 26

Pelargonium crispum 'French Lace'
Photo: Mary James

Salvia officinalis 'Tricolor'
Photo: Mary James

Perennials continued

Pelargonium crispum 'French Lace'
(also known as 'Variegated Prince Rupert')

This low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, South African perennial has wildly crinkled, cream and green variegated foliage. The thick, tough leaves have a lovely lemon scent, and the straight stems grow to 3-4 feet tall, giving the plant a very vertical form, unlike many other scented geraniums. Pale pink flowers appear periodically summer to fall. Makes an excellent upright accent in the sunny garden and is very nice in casual flower arrangements. Propagates easily from cuttings, too, so you'll have plenty to share with friends.

Salvia officinalis 'Tricolor'

This ornamental cultivar of culinary sage makes a lovely addition to a low-water garden. The 2-inch long velvety, edible green leaves are variegated with white, pink and purple, and the leaf color is quite variable. The most intense color is on the new leaves. This water-thrifty perennial is quite undemanding, and usually grows to about 1-2-feet tall and wide. Give it good drainage and a sunny location. Lavender or purple flower spikes appear in summer. Other equally garden-worthy *Salvia officinalis* cultivars include 'Purpurascens' (gray-purple foliage), 'Berggarten' (large gray-green foliage) and 'Icterina' (yellow-green variegated foliage).

– Susi Torre-Bueno is president of the San Diego Horticultural Society. She also is the organizer of "Style & Whimsy in the Sustainable Garden" in Pasadena on Sept. 23-26. This symposium on the lighthearted side of gardening in harmony with our climate features engaging speakers and nine exceptional gardens. Details are at www.PacificHorticulture.org.

Natives continued

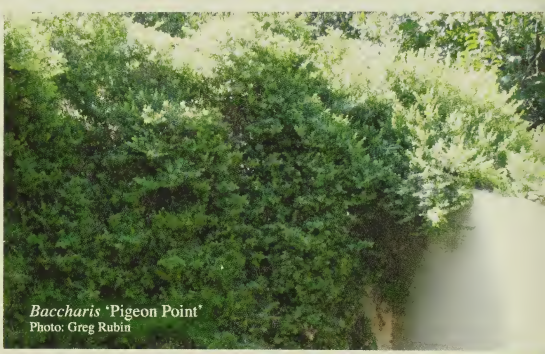
clay soil and garden conditions. Blooming begins in April/May and can continue well into September. I often see it covered in hummingbirds and butterflies. To stimulate more flowering, dead head the old flower stalks down to newer, vigorous foliage. Growing about 3 feet a year, it can reach mature size in 18 months. It is also culinary. One nursery reports that truck drivers stop by to break off a sprig to put in their cabs as air freshener.

Penstemon 'Margarita BOP'

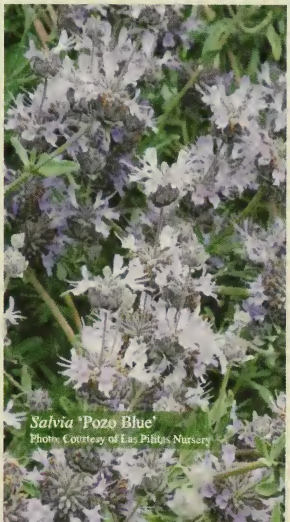
This is a well-known perennial is used along paths and patios for intense color in spring and early summer. Drought adapted, it also tolerates some garden water as well. Held in tall spikes above the foliage, the flowers are an amazing combination of lavender and blue that lends the blooms an electric quality. This plant grows only about 6 inches tall and 18 inches across and tolerates a wide range of soils.

The discovery of this plant at the **B**ottom **O**f the **P**orch at Las Pilitas Nursery in Santa Margarita is legendary, especially since Mother BOP bloomed for 15 years only to be destroyed by a 300-year-old oak that fell on it about 10 years ago. Sad, but she lives on in the progeny that survive her.

– Greg Rubin is the owner of California's Own Native Landscape Design based in Escondido. Learn more about him at www.calown.com.



Baccharis 'Pigeon Point'
Photo: Greg Rubin

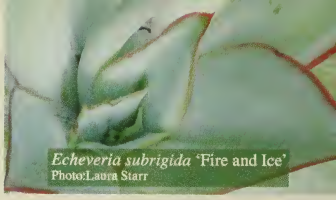


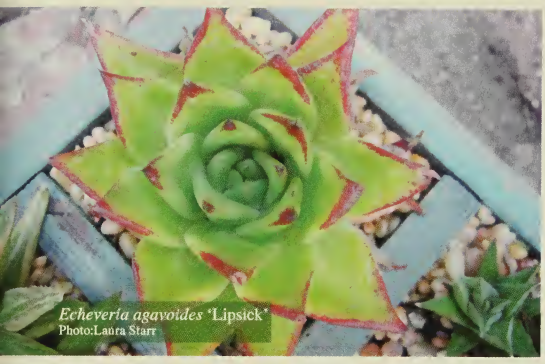
Salvia 'Pozo Blue'
Photo: Courtesy of Las Pilitas Nursery

Penstemon 'Margarita BOP'
Photo: Greg Rubin

5 That Thrive Succulents

By Laura Starr


Echeveria subrigida 'Fire and Ice'
Photo:Laura Starr


Echeveria agavoides 'Lipsick'
Photo:Laura Starr

Fall can be an excellent time to plant succulents. They appreciate the cooler weather, a bit of moisture in the air and a less-direct sun beating down on their tender leaves. At a time when gardens are going into winter dormancy, their leaves will provide welcome color.

Here are some of my favorites.

Sempervivum arachnoideum

The cobweb houseleek is a low growing, succulent with a larger (2-3 inch) central rosette encircled by smaller new plants. It's notable because of naturally occurring white webbing on top of the rosette that resembles spider webs. *Sempervivums* (semps or live forevers) prefer cooler, wetter weather. Care must be taken however to keep them a bit above ground level to avoid rotting. Also, as the weather gets wetter, remove all dead leaf matter at the bottoms of the rosettes with tweezers or by hand. These plants are ideal in containers with other low growing smaller plants or as a single specimen, especially if allowed to continually pup. In the landscape, they are happy in a rock garden or slightly raised area with good drainage. Each offset can be propagated into a new plant. Children are attracted to them.

Echeveria subrigida 'Fire and Ice'

Everyone seems to want this stunning new variety. This rosette-form succulent up to one foot across is notable for its silvery-green broad shaped leaves edged with red-maroon. As with most succulents, direct, south-facing summer sun can burn its wide leaves. After about a year, ours has sent up a sturdy flower spike with pink buds. We have it planted in a container but have used them as accents or focal points in a landscape with success. Plant them with the rosette on a bit of an angle to avoid water collecting in the center of the plant. Again, good grooming and drainage prevent rotting.

Sedum reflexum 'Blue Spruce'

We love this stonecrop because it is one of the few evergreen varieties and its blue-green color is unusual and restful for the eye. It also makes an excellent ground cover. 'Blue Spruce' tolerates shade and can be used as living mulch along borders and around shrubs and trees. It also spreads out beautifully in rockeries. The color goes well with orange or pink-edged succulents like *Echeveria shaviana*. No special care is warranted except to remove debris and avoid overwatering. If planting in a sunny location, be sure to acclimatize the plant to sun.

Echeveria agavoides 'Lipstick'

This is another fabulous *Echeveria* rosette, with lime-green leaves that turn bright red in sunlight. It offsets freely, is easy to propagate and thrives in containers and landscaping. The red/green contrast of the thick pointed leaves is especially welcome in December. 'Lipstick' looks great with *Euphorbia* 'Firesticks.'

Kalanchoe beharensis

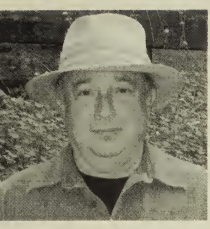
The felt leaf kalanchoe is a startling conversation piece. Growing 4 to 8 feet tall or more, this succulent is a distant relative of the little flowering kalanchoes sold during the holidays. The serrated leaves can be more than 6 inches long and are covered with velvety soft hairs. The entire plant is a silvery golden brown. Ours sent out a flower spike this summer that was more than 5 feet tall with many small pink/orange/yellow blooms that lasted for about a month. Once the flower stalk dies, that part of the plant dies as well. However, at the same time new strong stalks are growing out of the same root system. This plant belongs in large upright containers or as a background or specimen plant in a contemporary landscape. The stem structure doesn't encourage rotting so little special care is needed.

– Laura Starr is a Master Gardener and owner, with her husband Don, of The Grateful Shed, a business that specializes in succulent care and landscaping. The Starrs are teaching "Success With Succulents" at the annual Fall Home Gardening seminar sponsored by the San Diego County Master Gardener Association on Oct. 2. Details are at www.mastergardenerssandiego.org.

Kalanchoe beharensis 'Velvet'
Photo: Laura Starr

Sedum reflexum 'Blue Spruce'
Photo: Laura Starr

Sempervivum arachnoideum
Photo: Laura Starr



A Garden Conversation: Jerry Louis

From the time in the second grade in Los Angeles, when he first harvested radishes he had planted, Jerry Louis was intrigued by the notion that lots of learning could take place in a garden. In the years since, this concept has become an important aspect of Louis' life. Having consulted in a variety of schools both in San Diego and Northern California, Louis was a lead instructor in a San Diego area workshop – "Creating and Sustaining Your School Garden" – and later became the chair of the School Garden Group of the Master Gardener Association of San Diego County. He is dedicated to aligning school garden programs with other organizations interested in juvenile obesity, educational reform and environmental literacy.

How did you become involved in fostering school gardens?

I first became interested in school gardens in 1992, when I was an apprentice Master Gardener in Marin County. I was part of a Master Gardener team formed to look at various ways community schools could encourage children to appreciate our environment. At the same time we investigated the possibilities and potential of developing curriculum programs that would be taught in school gardens and have real-world applications beyond what was generally taught out of textbooks. We quickly began to see the results of this work, and that encouraged my dedication to the mission of curriculum-based school garden education.

Describe a typical school garden and what is grown there?

It is quite difficult to describe a "typical" school garden. However there are a number of common elements. Most of the school gardens utilize raised beds since so many are sited either on very poor, compacted ground or blacktop.

Vegetable gardens have been the most popular garden style, though we've noticed an increase in native-plant and natural habitat gardens that encourage visits by beneficial insects, native and migrating birds, and other wildlife. In 2005, a 2nd grade teacher at Christa McAullfe Elementary School in Oceanside, received grants and organized volunteers to transform three existing weed-filled raised garden beds into a butterfly habitat, planting host and nectar plants. When butterflies and caterpillars filled the halls the following summer and fall, the school enthusiastically embraced butterfly mania and ultimately received certification as a Monarch Waystation from monarchwatch.org.

The garden at Oak Knoll Elementary School in Encinitas flourishes under the leadership of parent volunteer, Chrissy Gerber, who has been joined by an enthusiastic and devoted cadre of teachers, parents, neighbors and community supporters. This school garden includes vegetable and flowerbeds, a composting and vermicomposting area, a greenhouse and seating for a small outdoor classroom. Ocean Knoll received special attention as the only school chosen for a site visit for the 11th Annual "Gardening with Class" School Garden and Nutrition Conference at the Del Mar Fairgrounds last April.

What are the qualities of a successful school gardening program?

A successful school gardening program can be partially measured by the long-term sustainability of the program itself and the involvement and dedication of the school's gardening community. Initially, there may be just one or two teachers or staff members developing the garden. Later other teachers, parent volunteers and others who want the best educational environment for children join in when they see the endless educational and enriching possibilities of a school garden program. Soon everyone wants to play a part in furthering its success. In the process of working together, a community is built, one based on the betterment of the garden, the nurturing of lives and the joy that blossoms in a cooperative environment.

How does gardening fit into a school's curriculum and a teacher's educational goals?

Gardens offer dynamic, beautiful settings in which to integrate every discipline – science, math, reading, environmental studies, nutrition and health, history, economics and the arts. But many teachers were initially reticent to adopt a garden as a setting in which to successfully teach. Certainly, they agreed that it would be more enjoyable for students and no doubt would teach many lessons that seem abstract in the classroom yet come alive in a garden setting. But didn't the teachers already have too much to do?

The answer was pretty simple – don't add; instead substitute alternative lessons linked state educational standards and requirements for school garden-based education. Once teachers understood this, they eventually discovered its appeal to students who seemed to focus better outside in the California sunshine. Today, California has made great progress in not only linking educational standards to garden education for elementary schools but for middle and high schools as well. School gardening is seen as an activity that enables schools to "provide dynamic environments

Photo: Jerry Louis

Photo: Jerry Louis

Photo: Jerry Louis

Photo: Jerry Louis

that support student mastery of educational standards," according to the California Department of Education.

From your experience, how do kids respond to gardening when introduced to it at school?

There always is a period of adjustment when a new method is introduced, but it doesn't take very long for children to embrace this meaningful education. They are attracted to the real world around them and see the relevance of what they're learning much more quickly. They also enjoy being encouraged to observe, discover, and document these learning activities.

California youth are in the midst of a major health crisis as the number of overweight and obese grows at an epidemic rate. School garden programs work to combat this epidemic by teaching healthy lifestyles including proper nutrition and physical activity. Through a gardening program, students gain first hand experience with fresh fruit and vegetables, many of which they have never tasted.

Kids also are quickly attracted to opportunities to work cooperatively and to take on responsibilities. Gardening builds confidence, self-esteem, and pride as students watch their efforts turn into beautiful and productive gardens.

In these days of tight budgets, how costly is it to initiate and maintain a school garden? Is there financial help available?

One might assume that the wealthier the school or district is, the better the school garden would be. It's certainly true that funds devoted to the development of school gardens are helpful, but it's also true that many of the most successful and productive school gardens have been developed in some of California's more economically challenged neighborhoods.

Also many wonderful and innovative school gardens have been built on imagination and ingenuity. Many of these schools have taught the fundamentals of recycling and reuse in their very creative method of building their gardens.

Master Gardener programs, including the one in San Diego, offer a great deal of resources and expertise for the development and enrichment of school gardens. Trained Master Gardener consultants spend thousands of hours in schools around the state each year supporting the work of both teachers and parents.

Just a few years ago, California distributed close to $25 million to support school gardens. This money helped schools build gardens, purchase needed materials and provide teacher training. There is still state aid available, but not as much. Service clubs, home improvement centers, gardening and landscape businesses and local businesses continue with generous financial support, as well as goods, services and volunteer time.

How many schools now have school gardens? Is the number growing?

Yes, the number is growing - by leaps and bounds. Why? Partly because of the correlation to state educational standards and partly because of the success of linking healthier eating habits to school garden education.

There are approximately 700 school gardens in San Diego County, thousands in California and many tens of thousands across the country. They vary in development and use. Some are very innovative, utilizing today's technology and garnering great support from their communities. Others are struggling.

If a parent or teacher wants to start a garden in a neighborhood school, what resources are available to help them?

Start by talking to others who are involved in school gardens in your community. The Master Gardener Association in your region or community is a great place to start. In California, in addition to the Master Gardener Association, there is California School Garden Network. In all regions, contact local botanical and university gardens, nurseries and garden centers, departments of education, garden clubs, and agriculture programs. Life Lab Science Program in Northern California is a developer of garden-based curriculum and is a great resource.

Additional resources: Master Gardener Association of San Diego County – School Gardens (www.mastergardenerssandiego.org); California School Garden Network (www.csgn.org); Life Lab Science Program (www.lifelab.org); The Edible Schoolyard (www.edibleschoolyard.org); The Learning Garden (www.thelearninggarden.org); Kids Gardening (www.kidsgardening.org) and Garden ABCs (www.gardenabcs.com).

Is there evidence that children involved with school gardens take the lessons learned there into adulthood? If so, in what ways?

A school garden is a powerful environmental education tool. Through gardening, students become responsible caretakers. For many children, a garden offers the only chance to get close to nature. Establishing a connection with nature at an early age is extremely important. Researchers discovered childhood experiences with nature are strongly linked to adult attitudes toward the natural world. Gardens create early opportunities to work cooperatively and to take on responsibilities.

On a personal level, gardening builds confidence, self-esteem and pride in students.

Gardens provide unique opportunities for cross-generational connections. While gardening, children interact with teachers, parents and community volunteers. These gardening experiences are never forgotten and go to develop the rich fabric that becomes our lives and what we pass on to future generations.

Photo: Jerry Louis

SDFA Calendar

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for September and October 2010

September Events

SEPTEMBER 1

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Crown Hills Clubhouse,
1821 Victoria Park Terrace, Alpine
More information: 619-445-8352; www.chirp.org

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
Dr. Merle Robboy discusses orchids of Costa Rica.
When: Culture Class 6:30 p.m.; General Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: www.palomarorchid.org

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.thesandiegoherbclub.com

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Community Room, North County Fair 200 E.
Via Rancho Pkwy, Escondido
More information: 760-727-7614

SEPTEMBER 3

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad
More information: www.carlsbadgardenclub.com

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: 1400 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista
More information: www.vistagardenclub.org

SEPTEMBER 4

■ TWO DAYS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY
2010 Hawaiian Plumeria Festival -
Flower Show and Plant Sale.
When: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. both days
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.socalplumeriasociety.com

SEPTEMBER 7

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m. Novice Meeting, Room 104; 7:30 p.m. General Meeting, Room 101
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.sdorchids.com

SEPTEMBER 8

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m. Hospitality; 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: Bonita Library Community Room,
4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585, dmontg@live.com

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego
More information: www.plgc.org

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:00 a.m.
Where: Lake Poway Pavilion, 14611 Lake Poway Rd., Poway
More information: www.powayvalleygardenclub.org

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main St., Ramona
More information: www.ramonagardenclub.com

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.epiphyllum.com

SEPTEMBER 9

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO MEETING
When: 9: 30 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-278-5689

SEPTEMBER 10

■ THREE DAYS
SAN DIEGO FALL HOME AND GARDEN SHOW
When: Fri. 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Where: Del Mar Fairgrounds,
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar
More information: www.fallhomegardenshow.com

SEPTEMBER 11

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
Cristy Brenner will present "South American Adventures."
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

SEPTEMBER 12

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC. MEETING
Come hear Tak Shimayu speak to the group.
When: 10:30 a.m.; classes begin at 9:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

SEPTEMBER 13

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
Native plants of Torrey Pines State Reserve with local author Margaret Fillius.
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: www.sdhortsoc.org

SEPTEMBER 14

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500, www3.adnc.com/~lynnd/brominfo.html

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church,
31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center
More information: www.dosvallesgardenclub.org

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 7555 Draper Ave., La Jolla
More information: 858-672-7850

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540, www.sdgeranium.org

SEPTEMBER 15

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: 858-748-8355

SEPTEMBER 16

BERNARDO GARDENERS MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: R. B. Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo
More information: www.bernardogardeners.org

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 11:45 A.M.
Where: Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista
More information: Marilyn Saleny, 619-421-6072

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.sdfern.com

SEPTEMBER 18

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE MEETING
When: 12:45 p.m.
Where: MiraCosta College, Aztlan Room, 2nd floor, Student Union Bldg. (3400)
More information: www.gardencentral.org/californiagc/miracosta

■ TWO DAYS
SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
The Big Bromeliad Sale
When: Sat. Noon - 4:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

SEPTEMBER 19

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Varies, please call for meeting information
More information: 760-436-3704; www.scwatergarden.org

SEPTEMBER 20

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
Al Heck will interview Walter Andersen at this month's meeting.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.sdrosesociety.org

SEPTEMBER 21

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7117 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More information: Jody Peterson, 858-729-0711

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
More information: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 760-434-5033, www.cnpssd.org

SEPTEMBER 22

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, S. D. CHAPTER MEETING
This month's program: All about bananas with Jon Verdick.
When 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.crfgsandiego.org

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: Social 9:30 a.m.; Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden,
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
More information: Rita Koczela, President, 760-436-3036; http://sdgc.klmmicro.com

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego
More information: www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

SEPTEMBER 23

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: Social 9:00 a.m.; Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Where: The Winn Room, Coronado Library, 6400 Orange Ave, Coronado
More information: www.crowngardenclub.org

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. North, La Jolla
More information: 858-454-4117, www.villagegardenclubofla jolla.com

SEPTEMBER 25

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC.
Sage & Songbirds Fall Festival
When: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Where: Viejas Outlet Center, 5003 Willows Rd., Alpine
More information: 619-445-8352; www.chirp.org

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553

■ TWO DAYS
SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Fall Bonsai Show
When: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

SEPTEMBER 27

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista
More information: 760-295-0484

SEPTEMBER 28

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Community Center,
341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook
More information: www.fallbrookgardenclub.org

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: St. Dunstan's, 6556 Park Ridge Rd., San Carlos
More information: 619-448-3613

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-2593

October Events

OCTOBER 1

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12 Noon
Where: Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad
More information: www.carlsbadgardenclub.com

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12 Noon
Where: 1400 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista
More information: www.vistagardenclub.org

OCTOBER 2

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
Plant show and sale
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 195 E. Douglas Ave., El Cajon
More information: www.eastcountyrosesocieity.com

SAN DIEGO MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
The Informed Gardener Fall Seminar
When: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Where: Marina Village Conference Center, San Diego.
More information: www.mastergardenerssandiego.org

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Buena Creek Gardens, 418 Buena Creek Road, San Marcos
More information: 858-566-0503, www. ahsregion7.org/daylily_club_pages/southwest_hemerocallis_society.htm

OCTOBER 4

PALOMAR DISTRICT'S FLORAL DESIGN FORUM
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad

OCTOBER 5

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m. Novice Meeting, Room 104; 7:30 p.m. General Meeting, Room 101
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.sdorchids.com

OCTOBER 6

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Crown Hills Clubhouse,
1821 Victoria Park Terrace, Alpine
More information: 619-445-8352; www.chirp.org

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
Harry Phillips of Andy's Orchids will address the group.
When: Culture Class 6:30 p.m.; General Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: www.palomarorchid.org

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.TheSanDiegoHerbClub.com

OCTOBER 9

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
Raising bromeliads commercially will be discussed by Tony Godfrey.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
More information: www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: sdcss.net

OCTOBER 10

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Park picnic meeting
When: 9:00 a.m.
Where: Lake Poway
More information: www.sandiegobonsai.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING
Members-only luncheon and awards.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: socalplumeriasociety.com

OCTOBER 11

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
Horticulturalist Wendy Proud will present Desert Plants for San Diego.
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: www.sdhortsoc.org

OCTOBER 12

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500, www.adnc.com/~lynnd/brominfo.html

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center
More information: www.dosvallesgardenclub.org

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 7555 Draper Ave., La Jolla
More Information: 858-672-7850

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540; www.sdgeranium.org

OCTOBER 13

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: Hospitality 9:30 a.m.; Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Where: Bonita Library Community Room,
4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585, dmontg@live.com

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego
More information: www.plgc.org

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:00 a.m.
Where: Lake Poway Pavilion, 14611 Lake Poway Rd., Poway
More information: www.powayvalleygardenclub.org

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main St., Ramona
More information: www.ramonagardenclub.com

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
More information: www.epiphyllum.com

OCTOBER 14

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-278-5689

OCTOBER 16

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Plant sale
When: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (CNPS members 10:00 a.m.)
Where: Casa del Prado Patio, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 760-434-5033, www.cnpssd.org

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE MEETING
When: 12:45 p.m.
Where: MiraCosta College, Aztlan Room, 2nd floor, Student Union Bldg. (3400)
More information: www.gardencentral.org/californiagc/miracosta

OCTOBER 17

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Varies, please call for meeting information
More information: 760-436-3704, www.scwatergarden.org

OCTOBER 18

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
This month's meeting will feature a potluck dinner and guest speaker Cliff Orent.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.sdrosesociety.org

OCTOBER 19

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 760-434-5033, www.cnpssd.org

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7117 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More information: Jody Peterson, 858-729-0711

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
More information: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

OCTOBER 20

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: 858-748-8355

OCTOBER 21

BERNARDO GARDENERS MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: R. B. Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo
More information: www.bernardogardeners.org

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
More information: www.sdfern.com

OCTOBER 25

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista
More information: 760-295-0484

OCTOBER 26

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook
More information: www.fallbrookgardenclub.org

PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Guest speakers: Robin Pokorski, George Speer and Rita Desilets.
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Windmill Restaurant, 890 Palomar Rd., Carlsbad
More information: 858-755-3284, www.geocities.com/pdgardenclubs

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: St. Dunstan's, 6556 Park Ridge Rd., San Carlos
More information: 619-448-3613

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-2593

OCTOBER 27

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, S. D. CHAPTER MEETING
Newly developed and low-chill deciduous recommendations by Tom Spellman, Dave Wilson Nursery.
When 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.crfgsandiego.org

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: Social 9:30 a.m., Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
More information: Rita Koczela, President, 760-436-3036; www.sdgc.klmmicro.com

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego
More information: www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

OCTOBER 28

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: Social 9:00 a.m.; Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Where: The Winn Room, Coronado Library, 6400 Orange Ave, Coronado
More information: www.crowngardenclub.org

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. North
More information: 858-454-4117; www.villagegardenclubofla jolla.com

OCTOBER 29

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553, affiliates.cssainc.org/palomar-cactus-and-succulent-society.html

Gardening Classes

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, PT. LOMA, GARDENING CLASS
Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen Nursery, Pt. Loma, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego
More information: www.walterandersen.com

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, POWAY, GARDENING CLASS
Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen Nursery, Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway
More information: www.walterandersen.com

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN CLASSES
The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.
When: Contact for program-specific times.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More information: www.thegarden.org, 619-660-0614, x10

Walks, Tours & Garden Events

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN TOUR
Come and meet up at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the San Diego Botanic Garden formerly known as Quail Botanical Gardens. No reservations required. Free with admission.
When: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: www.sdbgarden.org

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN: CHILDREN'S EVENTS
The Hamilton Children's Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact San Diego Botanic Garden for a complete listing of their scheduled events.
When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.
Where: 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: www.sdbgarden.org

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN TOUR
Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.
When: Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More Information: www.thegarden.org

CNPS NATIVE PLANT WALK
Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free, but may be canceled due to inclement weather or poor trail conditions.
When: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., first Sunday of the month
Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego
More information: www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/teclte.html; (858) 581-9959

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.
When: 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12 p.m. – 4 p.m., Sunday
Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego
More information: www.sdchm.org/garden

Balboa Park Events

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey.
When: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., third Friday of each month
Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.sandiegozoo.com

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden, There is a $4 fee for adults, $2.50 fee for Seniors (55+), children and military with I.D. .
When: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday
Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.niwa.org

BALBOA PARK OFFSHOOT TOURS
Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)
When: 10 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.balboapark.org

BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS
Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.
When: 1 p.m., every Tuesday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.balboapark.org

San Diego Natural History Museum Canyoneer Walks
Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks. There is a $2 fee.
When: Times vary; check website for specific event details
Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details
More information: www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907
1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684 619-232-5762 Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park
Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

Mission Statement: To promote the knowledge and appreciation of horticulture and floriculture in the San Diego region.

OBJECTIVES

1. To educate and encourage regional gardeners through lectures, classes, publications, scholarships and library resources.
2. To promote the use of regionally appropriate plants and gardening techniques, including natives and Mediterranean climate adapted plants.
3. To encourage, educate, and support floral design activities for personal and public display.
4. To advise and encourage leaders and the community in conservation and beautification of public and private spaces. To network and support plant-interested groups and societies

GENERAL MEETINGS 2010

February 17
April 21
June 15
September 29

Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

OFFICERS

President
Sandra Dysart

Vice President (Programs)
Christie Wright

Vice President (Membership)
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Nancy Carol Carter

Recording Secretary
Gayle DeFalco

Corresponding Secretary
Barbara Clark

Historian
Diane Maher

Parliamentarian
Barbara Clark

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Term 2009-2011
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Suzanne Michele
Laura Starr

Term 2010-2012
Kay Harry
Diane Maher
Suzanne Sorger

Term 2010-2013
Joan Blankenship
Meredith French
Bonnie Gebhardt

Arrangers Guild Liaison
Sharon Lowry

AFFILIATES

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC.
Exec. Director: Maureen Austin
President: Lisa Lomax
P. O. Box 532
Alpine, CA 91903-0532
619-445-8352
www.chirp.org

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
President: Leslie Crawford
P. O. Box 180188
Coronado, CA 92178-0188
619-435-8079
www.coronadofloralassoc.org

FRIENDS OF BALBOA PARK
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101
619-232-2282
www.friendsofbalboapark.org

FRIENDS OF THE HORTENSE MILLER GARDEN
P. O. Box 742
Laguna Beach, CA 92652-0742
949-499-5518
Tour reservations: 949-497-0716
Information: 949-244-2010
www.hortensemillergarden.org

FRIENDS OF THE MARSTON HOUSE
c/o SOHO
2476 San Diego Ave.
San Diego, CA 92110
619-297-9327
www.marstonhouse.org
Friends@marstonhouse.org

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN BALBOA PARK
Contact: Luanne Kanzawa
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792
619-232-2721
www.niwa.org

PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Director: Jane McKee
1276 Palomares Ct.
Fallbrook, CA 92078-1620
760-728-6373
palomardirector@aol.com
http://palomardistrict.tripod.com

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA LIBRARY
30902 La Promesa
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-2821
949-459-6094

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN
Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation, Inc.
President/CEO: Julian Duval
P. O. Box 230005
Encinitas, CA 92023-0005
760-436-3036
www.SDBGarden.org

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION
President: Ed Hamilton
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792
619-234-8901
www.sdbgf.org

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Horticulture Department
P. O. Box 120551
San Diego, CA 92112-0551
619-231-1515 Ext. 4298
www.sandiegozoo.org

SEAWORLD OF CALIFORNIA
500 Sea World Dr.
San Diego, CA 92109-7904
619-222-6363
www.seaworld.com/sandiego

SERRA MESA BRANCH LIBRARY
9005 Aero Drive
San Diego, CA 92123-2312
858-573-1396

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
Chair: Sandi Lord
P. O. Box 876
Pauma Valley, CA 92061-0876
760-727-7614

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN
Executive Director: Marty Eberhardt
12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West
El Cajon, CA 92019-4317
619-660-0614
info@thegarden.org
www.thegarden.org

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

CLASSIC GARDENS
P. O. Box 2711
La Jolla, CA 92038-2711
858-459-0316

FLOWERS OF POINT LOMA
2170 Chatsworth Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92107-2423
619-223-5475

GRANGETTO'S FARM AND GARDEN SUPPLY
P. O. Box 463095
Escondido, CA 92046-3095
760-745-4671
www.grangettos.com

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Contact: Darren Simon
4677 Overland Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123-1233
858-522-6600
www.sdcwa.org

SMALL SPACE CREATIONS
6333 College Grove Way
San Diego, CA 92115-7217
619-981-3273
http://smallspacecreations.com/

JIM STELLUTI CONSULTING LANDSCAPE ARTIST
1928 Madison Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116-2722
619-298-7641

GARDEN CLUBS:

BERNARDO GARDENERS
President: Liliane Dickinson
P. O. Box 27179
San Diego, CA 92198-1179
858-672-2454
www.bernardogardeners.org

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Lynne Batchelor
1165 Kosner Dr.
San Diego, CA 92154-3803
858-451-6764

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
President: Ellen McGrath-Thorpe
Publicity: Mary Hassing
P. O. Box 626
Carlsbad, CA 92008
760-494-7774

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
President: Marilyn Saleny
P. O. Box 57
Chula Vista, CA 91912-1016
619-421-6072

CROWN GARDEN CLUB
President: Shannon Player
P. O. Box 180476
Coronado, CA 92178-0476
619-435-1746
www.crowngardenclub.org

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
President: Carol Curcio
P. O. Box 123
Valley Center, CA 92082
760-751-2226
www.dosvallesgardenclub.org

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Co-Presidents: Connie Forest & Janice Phoenix
P. O. Box 1702
Fallbrook, CA 92088-1702
760-451-0792
www.fallbrookgardenclub.org

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
President: Jody Peterson
P. O. Box 2713
La Jolla, CA 92038
858-729-0711
Jodypete3522@gmail.com

MIRACOSTA HORT. CLUB OF OCEANSIDE
President: Louise Ortega
158 Carey Rd.
Oceanside, CA 92054
760-598-6571
www.gardencentral.org/californiagc/miracosta

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
President: Scott Borden
Mission Hills Garden Club
3145 Brant St.
San Diego, CA 92103-5502
619-923-3624
www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
President: Julie Hasl
P. O. Box 6382
San Diego, CA 92166
619-564-7036
www.plgc.org

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
President: Emily Troxell
P. O. Box 27
Poway, CA 92074-0027
858-748-1025
http://powayvalleygardenclub.org/

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
President: Georgie Suitor
P. O. Box 1412
Ramona, CA 92065
760-788-9876, Publicity & Programs
www.ramonagardenclub.com

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB
Contact: Connie Beck
1077 Vista Madera
El Cajon, CA 92019
619-749-4059

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
President: Hal Sexton
P. O. Box 483
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-0483
858-756-1554
www.rsfgardenclub.org

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
President: Genny Deutsch
6796 Summit Ridge Way
San Diego, CA 92120
619-583-8008

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
President: Susi Torre-Bueno
P. O. Box 231869
Encinitas, CA 92023-1869
760-295-7089
www.sdhortsoc.org

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
President: Geri Thiroway
1105 Santa Madera Ct.
Solana Beach, CA 92075
858-755-3284
sdgc.klmmicro.com

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Co-Presidents: Sally Kirby and Starr Rausch
P. O. Box 1526
Temecula, CA 92593-1526
951-677-4895
www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
President: Nan Kaufman
4638 Alhambra St.
San Diego, CA 92107-4021
619-225-8349
www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
President: Lynn Paine
P. O. Box 44
Vista, CA 92085-0044
760-630-0383
www.vistagardenclub.org

IKEBANA SCHOOLS:

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
President: Deborah Warriner
633 Alameda Blvd.
Coronado, CA 92110
619-435-9712

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
President: Chris A. Bugarin
P. O. Box 211163
Chula Vista, CA 91921-1163
619-869-4622
chrisb1968@cox.net
ikebanasandiego.org

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
President: Mrs. Charles Oehler
2822 Walker Dr.
San Diego, CA 92123-3056
858-278-5689

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER
P. O. Box 195
Solana Beach, CA 92075
858-672-7850

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH
Director: Hiroko Szechinski
10830 Montego Dr.
San Diego, CA 92124-1421
858-571-6137

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey
2829 Flax Dr.
San Diego, CA 92154-2160
619-429-6198

PLANT SOCIETIES:

AFRICAN VIOLET

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
President: Patty Regan
2000 S. Melrose Dr., #119
Vista, CA 92081
760-295-0484

BEGONIA

MARGARET LEE BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
President: Michael Ludwig
6040 Upland St.
San Diego, CA 92114-1933
619-262-7535

BONSAI

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION
President: Brenda Storey
9976 Dauntless St.
San Diego, CA 92126-5514
858-689-0957

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
President: Steve Valentine
P. O. Box 40037
San Diego, CA 92164-0037
619-699-8776
www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK
President: Andy Siekkinen
P. O. Box 232475
San Diego, CA 92193

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
President: Robert Kopfstein
P. O. Box 83996
San Diego, CA 92138-3996
760-726-8300
http://bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
President: Vicki Broughton
P. O. Box 840
Escondido, CA 92033
760-741-7553
vmbrought@cox.net

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
President: Chris Miller
P. O. Box 33181
San Diego, CA 92163-3181
619-258-9810
sdcss.net

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Dean Turney
467 Fulvia Street
Encinitas, CA 92024
760-942-1919

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
President: David J. Tooley
11375 Nawa Way
San Diego, CA 92129-1116
858-672-2593
djsj21643@aol.com

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
Contact: Gary Colby
11375 Alberni Court
San Diego, CA 92126
858-566-0503
Ahsregion7.org/daylily.../southwest_hernerocallis_society.htm

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
President: Sandra Chapin
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San Diego, CA 92112-6127
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www.sandiegoepi.com

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Coordinators:
Jack and Mary Ann Olson
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SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
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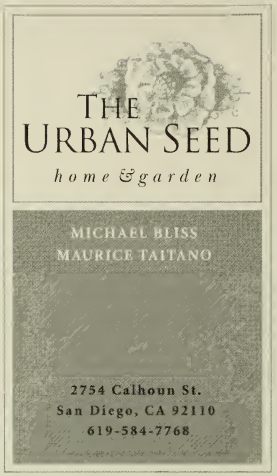


Send changes to Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684. Call 619-232-5762
Email: *membership@sdfloral.org*
Sept./Oct. 2010 issue: July 10, 2010 Each affiliate group is entitled to a business-card sized ad at half price. We can accept your designed ad (TIFF, JPEG or PDF files preferred).

Photo: Rachel Cobb

In Season

Here are some items that you may find being sold from the stalls at your local Farmers' Market in September and October. (For more information on San Diego County Farmers' Markets, visit www.sdfarmbureau.org.)

September: Apples, avocados, basil, carrots, cauliflower, celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, figs, grapefruit, grapes, grapefruit, green beans, guavas, herbs, lemons, limes, melons, onions, pears, peppers, plums, potatoes, raspberries, scallions, summer squash, strawberries, sweet potatoes, tangelos, tomatoes, Valencia oranges and various cut flowers.

October: Apples, Asian pears, avocados, basil, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, figs, grapes, green beans, guavas, herbs, kiwi, lemons, limes, lettuce, melons, onions, pears, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, scallions, spinach, summer squash, strawberries, sweet potatoes, tangelos, tomatoes and various cut flowers.

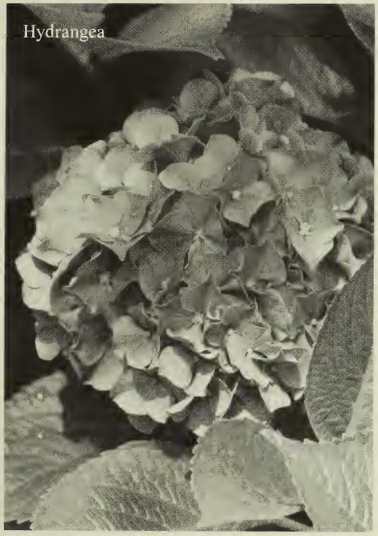
Contact Us! Do you have an event, class or meeting that you'd like to let California Garden readers know about? If so, please email sdfloral@gmail.com or Denise Thompson at EarthD@san.rr.com with your group's name, the meeting date and time, meeting place, any applicable fees, event program and contact information. You may also submit the above information via regular mail, sent to Calendar Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room 105, San Diego CA 92101. Space is limited, so please get in touch today to ensure inclusion! The deadline for the upcoming Nov./Dec. 2010 issue is September 5, 2010; the deadline for the Jan./Feb. 2010 issue is November 5, 2010.

Can autumn floral arrangements created more than 50 years ago lend inspiration to contemporary designers? Read on for flower combinations and design ideas of the past. – Nancy Carol Carter

Winter 1955

In Appreciation of the Fall Flower Arrangement Show

By Beatrice Irwin



Hydrangea

Photo: Rachel Cobb

[In] the airy Floral Building at Balboa Park, the Floral Association held its annual Fall Flower Arrangement Show. . . . Several tables laid out with fine linens and ceramics gave the scene an hospitable touch that was welcoming. Among theses, one, labeled "1920," was notable for a display of lavender and gold "mums" combined with a Royal Worcester tea-service, in the same tones, reminding one of the elegant social functions of that leisured era. Contrasting this arrangement of formal sophistication, was the table, "Driftwood," striking in its contemporary simplicity, bold color scheme, and flowing rhythms of grey driftwood punctuated by glowing begonias and beeswax candles.

More conventional arrangements brought dahlias and hydrangeas into prominence, notable chiefly for their size and grandiose coloring. In agreeable contrast to these were a number of desert compositions, featuring dried leaves, grasses and berries, and a Balinese arrangement, composed of a pyramid of green pineapple guavas, wreathed with Natal plums and the scarlet blooms of the terrestrial orchid. This was an outstanding contribution to the group.

Among the more strictly floral offerings, one paused long before a dramatic treatment of beautiful banana blossoms combined with dried coconut palm buds. Not far off, white driftwood supporting pink azaleas against a background of a silver tray, suggested luxury. Another striking item was a wooden figure of Saint Francis standing on a glowing redwood base and accompanied by a bouquet of choicest golden tea roses, symbolic of wisdom. This ethical touch sounded an individual note. Nor were several other rose offerings to be ignored, for the sheer beauty of blossoms.

Advancing with reluctance to the exit of this show, one was arrested by a flaming cascade of shaded rose tuberous begonia blooms pouring forth from a cornucopia, formed of tiny white chrysanthemums, onto a bed of palest green net. The complex and exotic appeal of this arrangement, combined with the perfections of its flowers, was a final souvenir to be treasured.

As one emerged onto the balcony entrance of the building gay with gold and purple potted "mums," grown in Balboa Park, one congratulated both the Park and the members of the San Diego Floral Association.

California Native Plant Society
ANNUAL
NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday, October 16, 2010

Balboa Park, San Diego
Casa del Prado Theater Courtyard
1700 Village Place

11 AM - 3 PM

Open to CNPS members at 10 AM
Join or renew membership at the the Sale

- *Native shrubs, trees, flowering plants*
- *Seeds, books, posters*
- *Convenient curb-side parking for loading plants*
- *Friendly, knowledgeable experts to assist you*
- *Freebies for kids*
- *More information at www.cnpssd.org*

Why Native Plants?
Attract birds and butterflies, save water, and preserve San Diego's natural heritage!

All proceeds support the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of of native California flora

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